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FROM CHINA

THE NEXT BIG
SMARTPHONE

THE HOTTEST PHONES
YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF

TOMORROW

FOOD PRINTERS
& EYE WRITING

MWC: TECH SHOW'S
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PRIVACY

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**SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTING SPARKS
MAJOR PRIVACY BATTLE**

40



SUMMARY

**FOOD PRINTERS
AND EYE WRITING:
TECH SHOW'S
QUIRKIEST GADGETS**



94

**HOTTEST PHONES
YOU'VE NEVER
HEARD OF SAME
BANG, LESS BUCK**



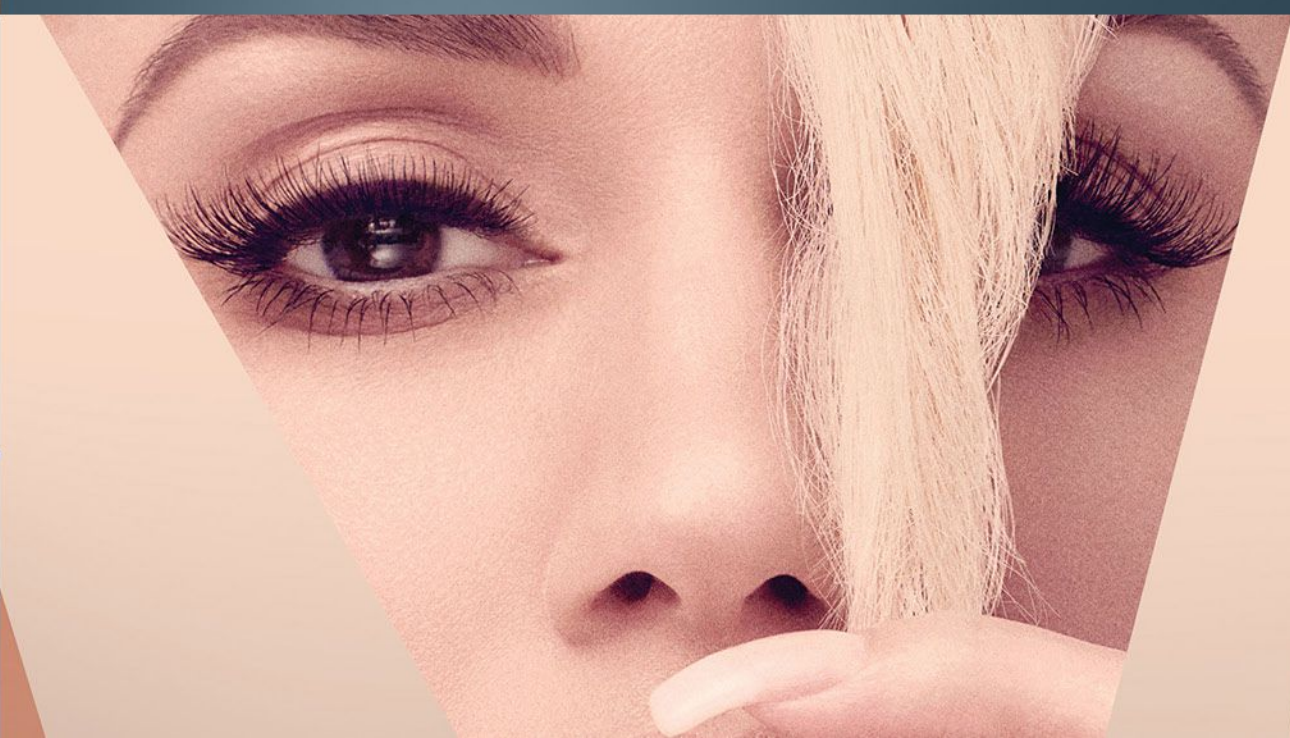
14

**YAHOO BOARD HIRES INVESTMENT BANKS
TO MULL POSSIBLE SALE**



144

MUSIC VIDEO SERVICE VEVO AIMS TO LAUNCH PAID SERVICE	08
SAMSUNG MOBILE-PAY SERVICE WILL EXPAND, STARTING WITH CHINA	28
FACEBOOK'S ZUCKERBERG AT CROSSROADS IN CONNECTING THE GLOBE	30
APPLE TELLS EMPLOYEES WHY IT WON'T HELP HACK SHOOTER'S PHONE	54
SOME SAN BERNARDINO FAMILIES BACK FBI STAND ON CELLPHONE	62
UBER FORCED TO DRIVE DEFENSIVELY, AGAIN, AFTER MASS SHOOTING	72
TECH TOYS ABOUND AT NEW YORK TOY FAIR	80
CAMERA BOOST, VIRTUAL REALITY IN NEW SAMSUNG, LG GADGETS	106
BOX OFFICE TOP 20: 'DEADPOOL' STAYS ON TOP WITH \$56.5M	136
FACEBOOK UPDATES MESSENGER APP TO HANDLE SEVERAL ACCOUNTS	150
SCIENCE: RECORD NUMBER OF ASTRONAUT WANNABES APPLY TO NASA 18,300	154
HEALTH: REPORT: HAWAII LEADS NATION IN GETTING TOO LITTLE SLEEP	162
UN PANEL AGREES TO BAN BATTERY SHIPMENTS ON AIRLINERS	168
CHINA REQUIRES APPROVAL FOR FOREIGN FIRMS TO PUBLISH ONLINE	176
FORD CEO LOOKS TO AUTONOMOUS CARS, SHARING ECONOMY	192
APPLE PAY LAUNCHES IN CHINA WHERE E-PAYMENTS WIDELY USED	198



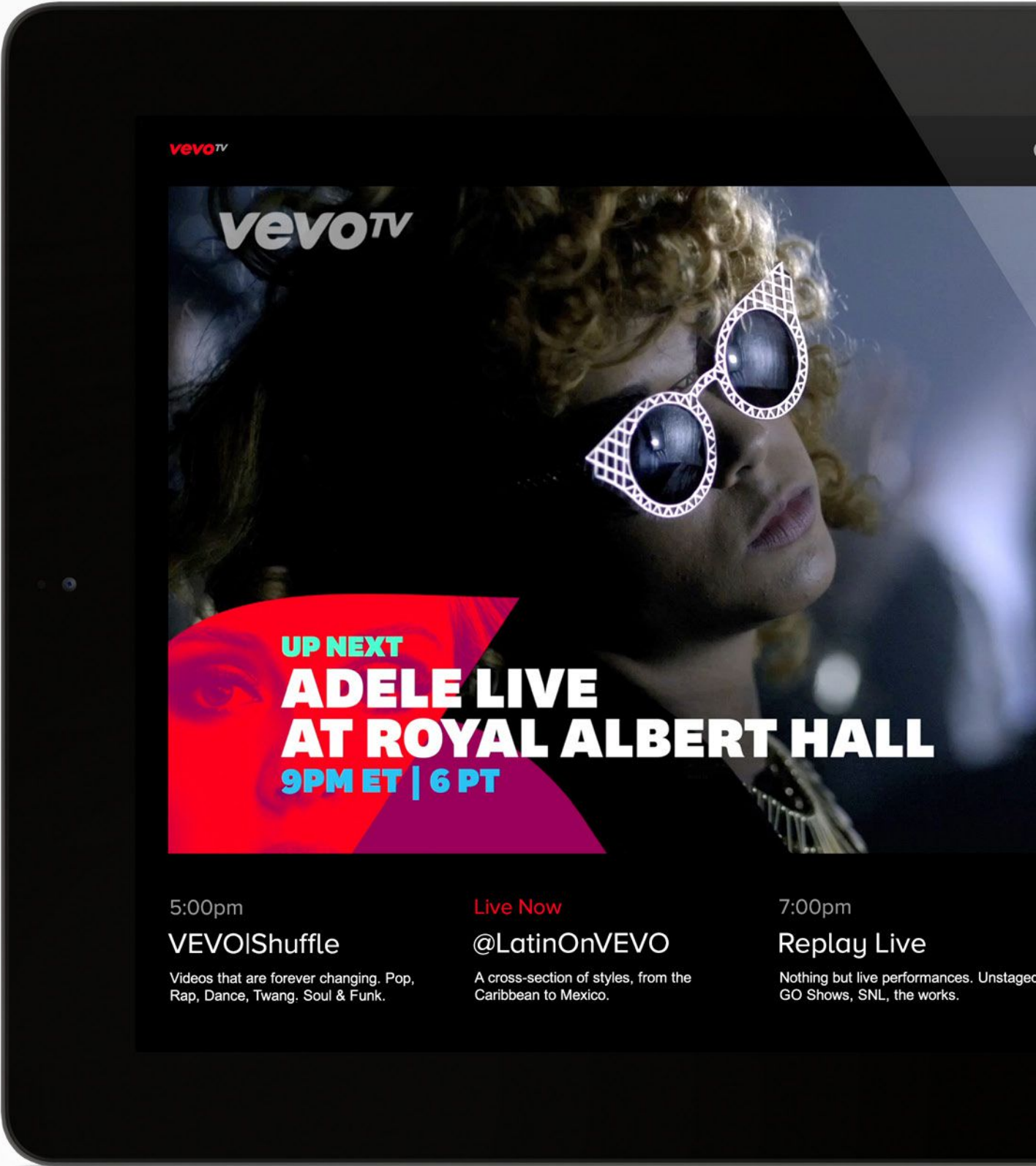
TOP 10 APPS	116
iTUNES REVIEW	120
TOP 10 SONGS	182
TOP 10 ALBUMS	184
TOP 10 MUSIC VIDEOS	186
TOP 10 TV SHOWS	188
TOP 10 BOOKS	190

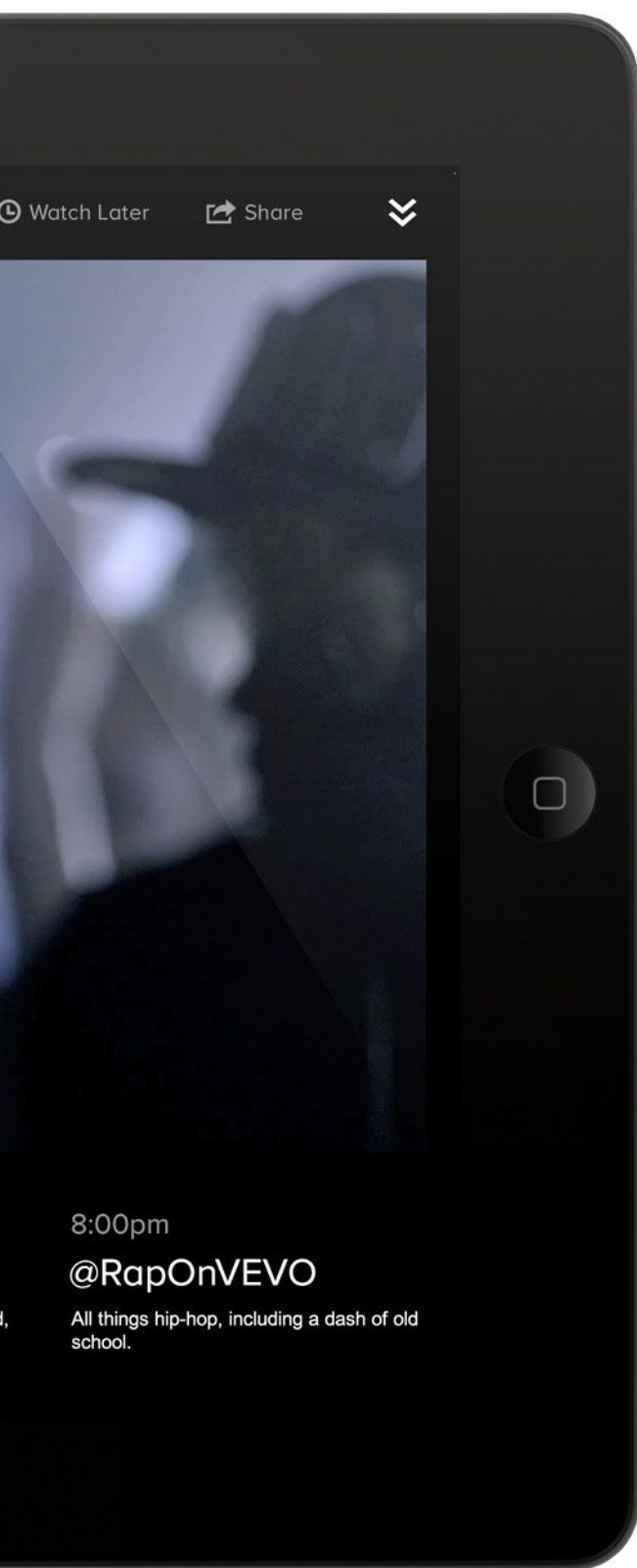


MUSIC VIDEO SERVICE VEVO AIMS TO LAUNCH PAID SERVICE

A hand holding a smartphone, with the screen displaying a cityscape. The Vevo logo is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

vevo





Vevo, the music video service owned by major labels Sony and Universal, is working on launching an ad-free subscription service with original content later this year.

Erik Huggers, who took over the CEO job in April, announced the plan at the Code/Media conference on Wednesday.

Vevo videos, which are racking up 17 billion views a month worldwide, would continue to be available for free on YouTube and other platforms, Huggers said. He didn't discuss how much the subscription plan would cost or how it would differ from YouTube Red, a \$10-a-month subscription service that also enables ad-free viewing, access to a music-focused app and original videos.

Vevo is also aiming to popularize its stand-alone app. It opened an office in San Francisco this month with plans to add around 50 employees to its 300-member staff this year.

On the sidelines of the conference, hosted by the technology news site Re/code, Huggers said it's important to coordinate with Warner Music Group, the other major music label that accounts for a quarter of industry sales. Currently, videos by Warner-signed artists are on a channel separate from Vevo's YouTube channel, and the company is not an equity partner in Vevo.

Huggers said future cooperation is possible, noting that Warner agreed to allow its artists' live performances at The Brit Awards next week to be played on the Vevo channel.

"We absolutely get along like a house on fire," he said. "There is no animosity at all."



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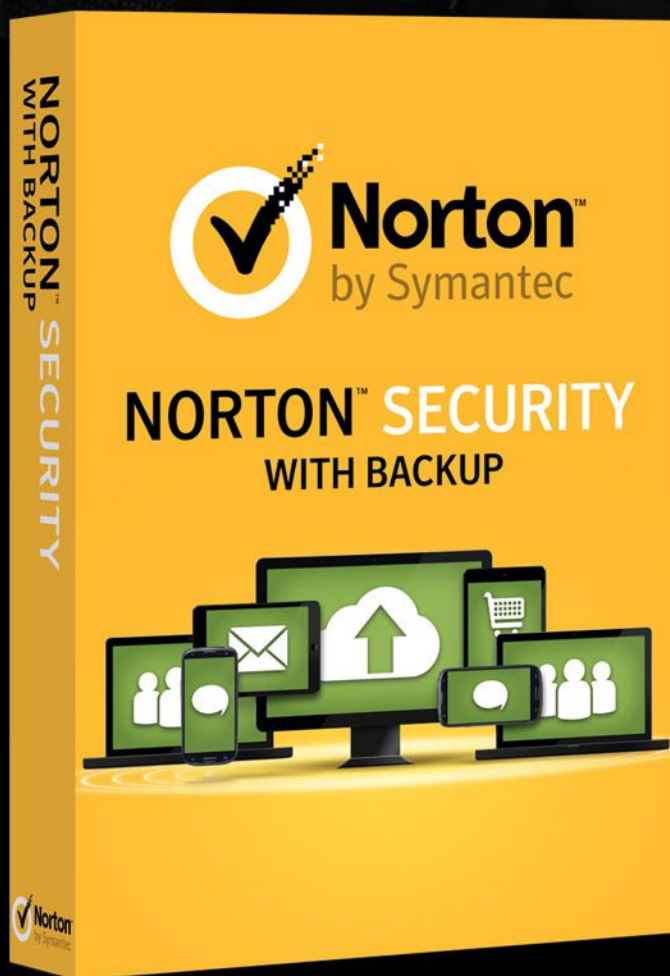
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HOTTEST PHONES YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF SAME BANG, LESS BUCK

Move over, Apple and Samsung. The next big smartphone might be from little-known Chinese brands such as TCL and OPPO.

Along with other Chinese phone makers such as Huawei and Xiaomi, Chinese brands have surpassed Samsung in China and are encroaching on Apple's turf. In the coming years, analysts forecast that these cheap Android phones with not-so-cheap features will likely attract more budget-conscious customers in Europe and even in Samsung's and Apple's home markets, South Korea and the United States.

Chinese phone makers made their global ambitions known at this week's Mobile World Congress wireless show in Barcelona, Spain. Huawei and TCL vied to steal the spotlight from Samsung and LG, both of which announced new high-end phones at the show. Xiaomi, which typically launches phones in China, will preview the Mi 5 phone in Barcelona on Wednesday.





"The Chinese smartphone vendors have a very unique feature - it is the price," said Shu On Kwok, editor of AndroidPIT, a website that tracks Android developments. "You get the same features as an LG or a Samsung smartphone has hardware-wise, but for a lower price."

Samsung saw its market share decline in 2015, while Apple forecast its first revenue decline in over 13 years. Both will have to do more to prove the value of the extra dollars their customers pay.

Along with premium hardware, Apple has tried to position its products as unique by offering software, services and apps that work only on Apple devices - although in many cases comparable services are available for Android devices.

At Samsung's product event Sunday, mobile chief D.J. Koh said "we have other ideas" beyond core smartphone features. Samsung, for instance, is promoting its Galaxy phones' compatibility with a Samsung virtual-reality headset and an upcoming 360-degree camera. But VR is still in its early days, of interest largely to gamers and tech pioneers.





The Chinese brands have already taken their toll on Samsung. Although it's still the largest smartphone maker in the world, Samsung is no longer among the top five phone makers in China, according to market research firms IDC and Counterpoint Technology. Profits from the mobile business have plunged to less than half of what it was in its heyday. Apple's sales in China rose in the fourth quarter, but its growth was outshined by Huawei.

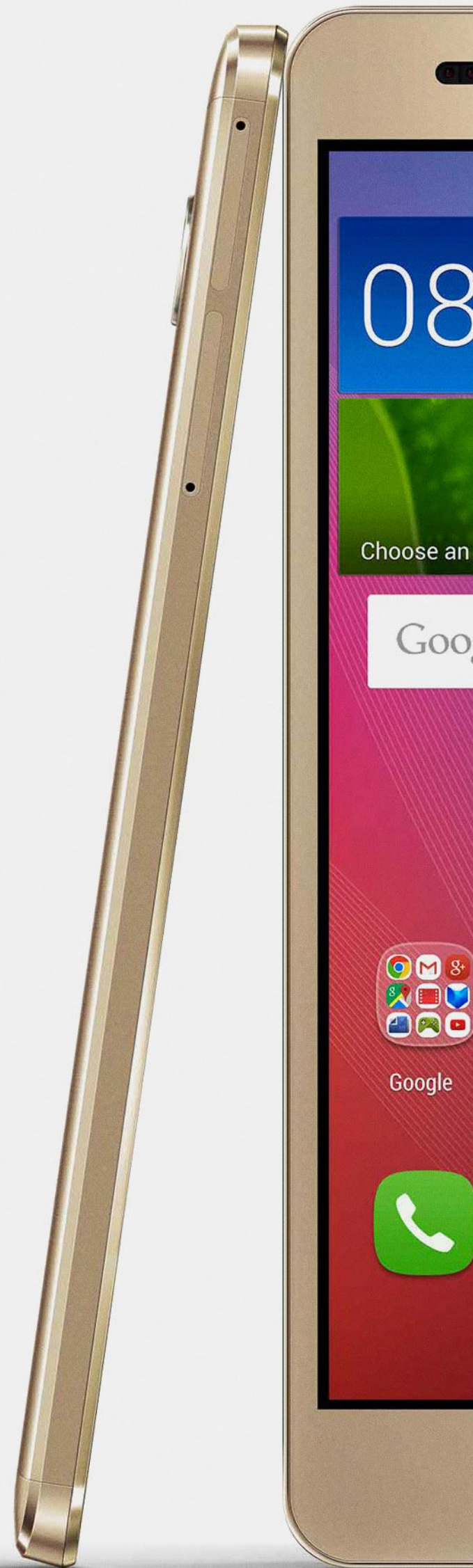
But bad news for manufacturers is good news for consumers.

Many of these Chinese companies sell decent phones for less than \$200, compared with about \$650 for an iPhone or high-end Samsung Galaxy phone. In other words, for the same price, customers can buy three or four smartphones with decent cameras and screens.

Chinese makers can keep prices low by reducing the profit margin and turning to cheaper components that are a year or two old. That means high-end phones still take better pictures and have sleeker, thinner designs. But phone innovation has slowed, and the advances appear marginal to many consumers. A Huawei photo taken in good light often looks just as good as an iPhone or Samsung shot when displayed on a small phone screen.

Melissa Chau, senior research manager at IDC, said Chinese companies are catching up on phone design and quality even more quickly than Samsung did a few years ago.

"Samsung was a fast follower in terms of innovation," Chau said. "These Chinese players, they are even faster."





And while these phone companies are pushing cheap phones, they are starting to succeed in getting customers to pay more - though still not as much as an iPhone or a high-end Galaxy. For instance, the average price for Huawei smartphones in China was \$213 last year, up 21 percent from 2014, according to IDC.

Having succeeded in China, these phone makers are looking elsewhere to grow. OPPO, China's fourth-largest smartphone maker according to IDC, is marketing aggressively in southeast Asia. Xiaomi already sells phones in Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

At the Barcelona show, Huawei executive Adam Joshua said that while the company's focus has been on emerging markets, it also has eyes on "the European market, Australia, and obviously the last big one, the U.S."

Analysts said Huawei and Xiaomi will likely steal customers from Apple and Samsung in their strongholds as some budget-conscious consumers seek to upgrade their phones without financial pressure.

When South Koreans were just starting to buy smartphones, many upgraded frequently to get longer-lasting batteries, sharper cameras and larger screens.









Now fewer consumers care whether they have the latest technologies, said Oh Bong Yeon, a 38-year-old South Korean. They may even wait several months until the price drops. Although Oh has the iPhone 6, he said he would buy Huawei's flagship smartphone if the company starts selling it in South Korea.

Raphael Rashid, 28, a British citizen living in Seoul, loves his Xiaomi Redmi Note 2, which his friend bought for him in China for about \$120. Before Xiaomi, Rashid used a \$150 Huawei smartphone for about a year.

"For a thousand dollars, I can get five new phones in the space of two years," he said. "I'll always have the latest phone."

Much of the growth comes from consumers who feel comfortable buying phones directly from manufacturers online, rather than from the wireless carrier. In the U.S., consumers are just starting to warm up to direct online sales, especially as carriers stop offering discounts in exchange for two-year contracts.

Huawei is now the third-largest smartphone maker in the world. Its market share exceeded 7 percent last year, compared with less than 6 percent in 2014, according to IDC. That's still far behind Samsung's 23 percent and Apple's 16 percent, but success doesn't necessarily mean being No. 1 everywhere.

In fact, ZTE mobile chief Adam Zeng said the Chinese phone maker wants to be in the top three in selected markets - read that as No. 3 - and not necessarily worldwide.

And Xiaomi might have trouble expanding to established markets - particularly the U.S. - because of accusations it has copied or closely imitated designs from Apple and other companies. Phone manufacturers routinely sue each other in these markets, and Xiaomi will need to build up a portfolio of its own patents to defend itself.

Even if gaps remain in market share, IDC's Chau said Chinese companies can at least close the gap in brand reputation in about three years. That's partly because Apple and Samsung are struggling to stay cool.

She said that while Apple is still the premium brand in China, "it's been around for a while and people are familiar with it. It lost the extra shine of being the new."





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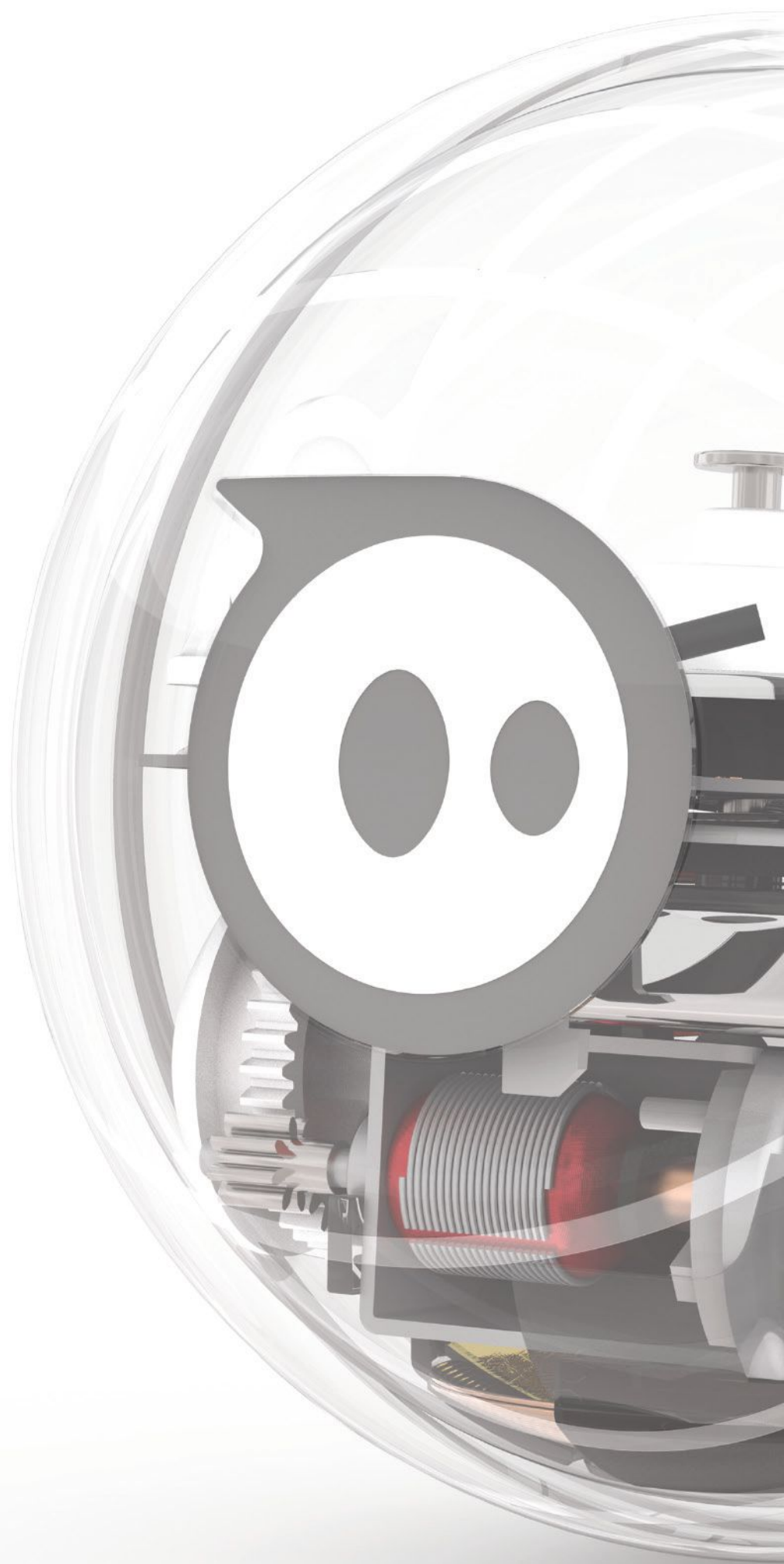


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SAMSUNG MOBILE-PAY SERVICE WILL EXPAND, STARTING WITH CHINA

Samsung's mobile-payment service will expand beyond the U.S. and South Korea this year.

The South Korean company said Friday that Samsung Pay is coming to China in March - a month after rival Apple Pay. It will hit Australia, Brazil, Singapore, Spain and the U.K. later in the year. Samsung also plans to expand to Canada, though no timeframe was given.

Samsung Pay works with certain Samsung phones. As with Apple Pay on iPhones and Google's Android Pay on a broader range of Android phones, users add their credit or debit cards and make payments at stores by tapping on a machine with a wireless technology called NFC.

Many merchants don't have NFC, though. Samsung Pay can work at additional stores by mimicking the magnetic swipes produced by plastic cards.







FACEBOOK'S ZUCKERBERG AT CROSSROADS IN CONNECTING THE GLOBE

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg likes to boast that his 3-year-old effort to bring the developing world online has reached millions of people in some of the world's poorest nations.

But a central element of his Internet.org campaign was controversial even before it was shut down in a key market this month. Indian regulators banned one of the pillars of the campaign, a service known as Free Basics, because it provided access only to certain pre-approved services - including Facebook - rather than the full Internet.

That leaves the social media mogul at a crossroads. Though he has vowed not to give up, Zuckerberg hasn't said whether he'll alter his approach. Facebook declined to make executives available for comment. Zuckerberg could shed light on his plans when he speaks Monday at Mobile World Congress, an annual industry event in Barcelona, Spain, where he has touted Internet.org in previous years.

“Everyone in the world should have access to the Internet,” Zuckerberg wrote on Facebook this month, arguing that online connections can improve lives and fuel economic development.

To achieve that goal, Zuckerberg has high-flying dreams for someday providing Internet connections through a network of drones, satellites and lasers. But his near-term plan is simpler: Facebook works with wireless carriers in poorer nations to let people use streamlined versions of Facebook and certain other online services, without paying data charges.

While the drones may someday connect people in areas too remote for cables or cell towers, Free Basics is intended for people who live in areas with Internet service but still can’t afford it.

A low-income resident of urban Manila, for example, can use Free Basics to view the Philippines’ GMA News site. “He can be informed. He can research. He can read the news,” Ederic Eder of GMA News said.

The program varies by country, in offerings and effectiveness.

In South Africa, for instance, Facebook partnered with the third-largest wireless carrier, Cell C. But Johannesburg resident Priscilla de Klerk said she couldn’t get Free Basics to work on her phone.

“Cell C is much cheaper as far as everything else is concerned, but their free Facebook is not a reality,” she said.

Last fall, Facebook announced a major expansion in Africa, where another regional carrier, Bharti Airtel, said it will offer Free Basics in 17 countries.





Image: Manu Fernandez

A close-up of a person's hand, palm facing up, with fingers slightly spread, gesturing during a presentation. The hand is in the lower-left foreground, and the person is wearing a dark suit jacket. The background is dark and out of focus.

“They’re getting a lot of traction in Africa,” said Danson Njue, a Kenya-based telecom analyst with the Ovum research firm. Tech rivals Google and Microsoft also have programs to expand Internet access, he noted, but their approaches are content neutral and involve extending networks to underserved areas.


Facebook doesn’t pay wireless companies for the cost of Free Basics. Carriers make money if new users eventually move to a paid data plan. Facebook also says it makes no money, as it doesn’t show ads, though Zuckerberg has conceded it benefits from gaining users in the long run.

While the company hasn’t released detailed usage figures, Facebook says Free Basics has brought more than 19 million people online for the first time. That counts any user who didn’t have Internet access before, regardless of whether they’re currently active.

On the Internet.org website, mixed in with videos about impoverished students using Free Basics to study and laborers starting small businesses, Facebook boasts more than 1 billion people “have access” to the service. That’s the combined population of regions where it’s available, not the number of users.

Free Basics is now in 36 countries. It was suspended last year in Egypt, on the anniversary of anti-government protests that were organized partly on Facebook. An earlier version of Free Basics, known as Facebook Zero, was shuttered three years ago in Chile, after authorities said Internet providers couldn’t offer discounts for accessing some content but not others.





Similar concerns turned India into the program's biggest battleground.

Free Basics enrolled more than 1 million Indians in its first year, according to Facebook's wireless partner, Reliance Communications. But critics, including many in the country's growing tech community, complained it was a predatory scheme: If low-income users couldn't afford anything besides Free Basics, opponents said, that meant Facebook was deciding which online services the nation's poor could use.

"The government should not allow big players to monopolize the Internet," said Manu Sharma, who runs a software development company in New Delhi.


Facebook responded last fall by announcing it would open Free Basics to any app that met its technical requirements for systems with limited capacity. Zuckerberg also changed the program's name to Free Basics, after critics complained "Internet.org" sounded like a nonprofit, when it's part of a for-profit company (the overall campaign is still called Internet.org).

But opponents still worry that Facebook could change requirements at any time, force competitors to pay higher rates to get into the program, or even block services that run afoul of powerful politicians.

"The fact that it could decide what apps could be hosted ... was a huge problem for me," said Basit Zaidi, a New Delhi attorney.



Image: Kimihiro Hoshino



As Indian regulators began studying the issue, Facebook drew more resentment with a public-relations blitz that critics called heavy-handed and patronizing. The regulators effectively banned Free Basics after concluding Internet providers shouldn't be allowed to charge different rates for certain services, because that discriminates against other content.

U.S. regulators have endorsed the concept of "net neutrality," which says all websites and apps should be treated equally by Internet providers. They're now studying whether "zero rating" programs, which offer some content for free, should be allowed. Net neutrality supporters are hoping India's decision will influence other nations.

Facebook has also launched a program that helps Internet providers offer reliable Wi-Fi service in underserved areas at affordable rates and without limits on content. The program's been limited to tests in a few countries.

The giant tech company could use its resources and clout with carriers to offer a similar wireless service, perhaps at limited speeds or volume, but without any restrictions on content, said Josh Levy of Access Now, a nonprofit that supports net neutrality. Zuckerberg has suggested in the past that such a service would be too expensive and difficult to offer.

Some Indians, meanwhile, say their country could have benefited from Free Basics.

"Ultimately, something is better than nothing, even if that something is flawed," said Uday Singh Tomar, a software engineer in New Delhi. "If a person is hungry and getting nothing, a free meal is good enough."

SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTING SPARKS MAJOR PRIVACY BATTLE

Apple at
Loggerheads
with FBI







WHY PRIVACY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE OF OUR TIME

Many of us may now be used to the new age of intense privacy debates in the wake of the Edward Snowden fiasco, but it seems that this intensity has just stepped up yet another notch with the tussle that has broken out in recent days between Apple and the FBI. Whichever side of the debate you are on - if you take a definite stance at all - the latest debate surrounding our attitudes to encrypted technology in the wake of the San Bernardino shooting has implications for us all.

It is a debate that has its roots in the most terrible tragedy, of the deaths of 14 people and serious injuries to a further 22 in a terrorist attack at the Inland Regional Centre in the Californian city of San Bernardino on December 2 last year. The perpetrators of the latest mass shooting to shock America were a married Redlands couple - Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik - who were later killed by police in a shootout.

This is where the difficulty truly begins for Apple - Farook owned an iPhone 5c that authorities want to unlock as they continue their urgent investigations into **the appalling events at a training event at the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health**. The FBI turned to Apple for help to access the device's data - only to be rebuffed in the kind of spectacularly public manner that has prompted frenzied debate across America.

COOK MAKES HIS STAND

In an open letter to Apple customers that was published on February 16 and can still be viewed online, Apple CEO Tim Cook outlined his version of events of what the United States government had asked his company to do - "build a backdoor to the iPhone".

He added that the FBI had requested that Apple "make a new version of the iPhone operating system, circumventing several important security features, and install it on an iPhone recovered during the investigation. In the wrong hands, this software - which does not exist today - would have the potential to unlock any iPhone in someone's physical possession."

Cook also criticised the FBI's "unprecedented" attempted use of the All Writs Act of 1789 to justify expanding its authority and effectively force Apple to remove security features and make it easier for an iPhone to be unlocked by "brute force". He continued: "The implications of the government's demands are chilling... ultimately, we fear that this demand would undermine the very freedoms and liberty our government is meant to protect."



STRONG OPINIONS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE DEBATE

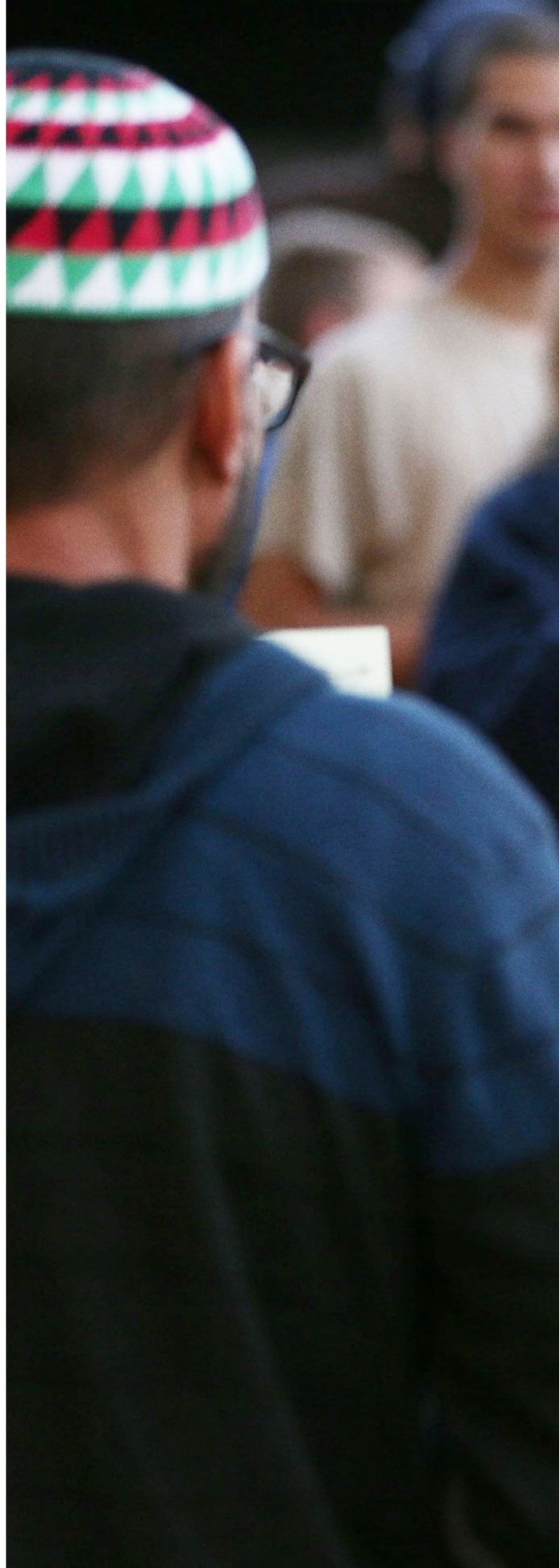
As one might imagine, those taking either or even no stance to Apple's approach had strong words to add to the ensuing public discussion.

A highly understandable critic of the Cupertino firm's stand against a federal judge's order was **Ryan Reyes, the boyfriend of one of the 14 victims, Daniel Kaufman.**

Describing himself as "extremely pissed-off" over an announcement that had also caused him to reconsider his ownership of Apple products, he opined: "It's infuriating to me, because I feel like all companies - especially US companies - should do what they have to do to protect our country".

Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump was another to weigh in against Apple, declaring: "I agree 100% with the courts... who do they think they are? They have to open it up." However, Cook also found plenty of support, including from transgender woman and activist Evan Greer, who said she had seen "the deeply chilling effect of overly broad government surveillance", adding in reference to her now 5-year old son: "What type of world is he going to grow up in? Will it be one in which he's constantly being monitored ... where he feels that he has no privacy?"

Cook also received plenty of backing from the tech community, Silicon Valley entrepreneur Alex Lindsay even stating: "Any communications/tech CEO that isn't standing with Apple against the FBI is basically admitting that they've already been compromised."









THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOGLE'S ROLE

Sure enough, **even Google - the developer of the open-source Android software - voiced its qualified support**, CEO Sundar Pichai tweeting: "We [Google] build secure products to keep your information safe and we give law enforcement access to data based on valid legal orders, but that's wholly different than requiring companies to enable hacking of customer services and data."

Pichai added that the case could set "a troubling precedent", but - as if to emphasise a rather softer attitude than Apple's to such a critical issue - concluded that he was "looking forward to a thoughtful and open discussion" on the matter.

Indeed, this case represents a potential public banana skin for Google, given its famously lax attitude to security compared to Apple - the search giant's entire business model, after all, is based on the collection of data from its users. Furthermore, Android is not only open source, but also much more fragmented and less tightly controlled than iOS, with **only 1.3% of Android devices even running the most recent, Marshmallow version of the software.**

It may also be noted that Pichai only made his public intervention after calls for him to do so by the likes of WhiteHat Security founder Jeremiah Grossman and Snowden, who surmised that "this is the most important tech case in a decade. Silence means Google picked a side, but it's not the public's."

Quite frankly, we would struggle to disagree with Snowden's take on this crucial matter. In today's age where it is becoming increasingly





apparent that privacy is under greater threat than ever before, Google's slack attitude would seem to represent a trap for users, who are coming to view companies that know absolutely everything about them with ever-greater suspicion.

WHAT COULD - AND IS LIKELY TO - HAPPEN NEXT

Whatever way this hugely controversial and momentous case ultimately plays out, there's no question of where the wider public stands.

In a 9to5Mac poll entitled "Should Apple break into the San Bernardino iPhone?",

16,594 or almost 85% of respondents expressed the view that it should not do so. 11.37% - more than 2,000 votes at the time this article was being written - were in favour of Apple complying with the FBI, while 2.69%, or just over 500 people said they were indifferent.

No less interesting was an accompanying poll on the site that asked the question, "How important is privacy to you?", to which a whopping 70.91% of people responded that "Privacy is one of the most important features for me", and more than a quarter said that while they cared more about other features, privacy was nonetheless important to them. That left a mere 1.49% of respondents who described themselves as indifferent about privacy in general, and 1.2% who felt privacy didn't affect them at all.

With **petitions having been started to urge the White House to relent in its efforts to make device makers create a "backdoor" for the government to access citizens' data**, even while the **Senate Intelligence Committee**

Chairman Richard Burr reportedly plans a new bill that would criminally penalize firms failing to comply with such orders, it's clear that this issue will run and run and run.

Our own stance is a very strong one - that this case is quite simply one of the most important of our generation, and that Apple must be supported in spearheading this battle to protect your privacy rights. For as long as we all believe in the personal privacy of all good and ordinary citizens, even as we stand resolutely against terrorists, this is a battle that simply has to be won.

by Benjamin Kerry & Gavin Lenaghan







Image: David Paul Morris

APPLE TELLS EMPLOYEES WHY IT WON'T HELP HACK SHOOTER'S PHONE



Apple Inc. CEO Tim Cook acknowledged to employees this week that “it does not feel right” to refuse to help the FBI hack a locked iPhone used by a gunman in the San Bernardino mass shootings. But he said that to do so would threaten data security for millions and “everyone’s civil liberties.”

“We have no tolerance or sympathy for terrorists,” Cook wrote in an early morning email addressed to the Apple “Team.” “When they commit unspeakable acts like the tragic attacks in San Bernardino, we work to help the authorities pursue justice for the victims.”

But he reiterated the company's position that to hack the San Bernardino gunman's phone would ultimately risk "security of hundreds of millions of law-abiding people."

Cook's email came just hours after FBI director James Comey said in an online post that Apple owes it to the San Bernardino victims to cooperate and said the dispute wasn't about creating legal precedent.

The FBI "can't look the survivors in the eye, or ourselves in the mirror, if we don't follow this lead," Comey said.

The iPhone used by Syed Farook, who along with his wife killed 14 people in the Dec. 2 rampage, was locked. At the government's request, a Federal magistrate judge has ordered Apple to help the FBI hack into the password-protected phone.



Image: Robert Galbraith



The case has sparked nationwide debate over digital privacy and national security. Apple, in its message to employees, appeared to be sensitive to criticism that the company is simply trying to protect its proprietary business.

"Apple is a uniquely American company," Cook wrote. "It does not feel right to be on the opposite side of the government in a case centering on the freedoms and liberties that government is meant to protect." But he said, "this case is about much more than a single phone or a single investigation, so when we received the government's order we knew we had to speak out."

Comey, in a statement posted on the Lawfare blog, sought to defend the FBI demand for access to the iPhone as well as counter Apple's arguments that the request risks threatening the digital privacy of Apple customers all over the world.

"We simply want the chance, with a search warrant, to try to guess the terrorist's passcode without the phone essentially self-destructing and without it taking a decade to guess correctly. That's it," Comey wrote in a four-paragraph statement. "We don't want to break anyone's encryption or set a master key loose on the land."

Cook's message to employees had "Thank you for your support," in the subject line. He told employees that the company believes abiding by the judge's order would set a dangerous precedent that would essentially create a backdoor to the encrypted iPhone. That would set "a dangerous precedent that threatens everyone's civil liberties," he said.

An accompanying question-and-answer posting for customers acknowledges that while it is technically possible for Apple to do what the judge ordered, that it's "something we believe is too dangerous to do."

Apple also points to the difficulty of keeping such a "master key" safe once it has been created. The government has said that Apple could keep the specialized technology it would create to help officials hack the phone - bypassing a security time delay and feature that erases all data after 10 consecutive, unsuccessful attempts to guess the unlocking passcode. This would allow the FBI to use technology to rapidly and repeatedly test numbers.

Cook said that if the company's engineers were to do as ordered, Apple would do its best to protect the technology, but that the company "would be relentlessly attacked by hackers and cybercriminals."





“The only way to guarantee such a powerful tool isn’t abused and doesn’t fall into the wrong hands is to never create it,” Apple said. The company has until Friday to formally protest the ruling in court.

The case would not have existed if the county government that owned the iPhone had installed a feature on it that would have allowed the FBI to easily and immediately unlock the phone. San Bernardino County had bought the technology, known as mobile device management from MobileIron Inc., but never installed it on any of the inspectors’ phones, including Farook’s, said county spokesman David Wert said.

There is no countywide policy on the matter and departments make their own decisions, he said.

The service costs \$4 per month per phone.



Image: Kimihiro Hoshino







SOME SAN BERNARDINO FAMILIES BACK FBI STAND ON CELLPHONE

Some family members of victims and survivors of the San Bernardino attack will file court papers in support of a judge's order that Apple Inc. help the FBI hack into a locked iPhone as part of its investigation, a lawyer and others say.

A Los Angeles attorney, Stephen Larson, said he represents at least several families of victims and other employees affected by the attack. He said the U.S. Attorney in the case, Eileen Decker, sought his help.

Larson said he will file a brief supporting the Justice Department before March 3.

The victims "have questions that go simply beyond the criminal investigation ... in terms of why this happened, how this happened, why they were targeted, is there anything about them on the iPhone - things that are more of a personal victim" view, Larson said.





Robert Velasco, whose 27-year-old daughter Yvette Velasco was killed in the shooting, told The Associated Press that he didn't have to think long before agreeing to have his name added to the legal filing in support of the FBI.

"It is important to me to have my name in there," Velasco said. "I lost my daughter in this and I want the court to see that I am seeking justice for my daughter."

Velasco said the phone could reveal other extremist plots or that other people were involved in planning the San Bernardino attack.

"The only way to find out is to open up that phone and get in there," he said. "A lot of the families of the victims, we're kind of angry and confused as to why Apple is refusing to do this."

The appeal from victims' family members gives the Justice Department additional support in a case that has sparked a national debate over digital privacy rights and national security interests. Magistrate Judge Sheri Pym ordered Apple last week to assist investigators by creating specialized software that would let the FBI rapidly test random passcode combinations to try to unlock the iPhone and view data stored on it.

The county-issued iPhone 5C was used by Syed Farook, who with his wife, Tashfeen Malik, killed 14 people at an office holiday party in December before they died in a gun battle with police. The government said they had been at least partly inspired by the Islamic State.

The couple physically destroyed two personal phones so completely that the FBI has been unable to recover information from them.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Monday that the FBI's request is "quite limited in scope" and called it "an effective way for the FBI to follow their regular procedure as they conduct this independent investigation, but also stay true to the kinds of principles that the president has discussed publicly about the need for robust encryption methods."

Earnest said the sides needed to hash things out in court and questioned whether Congress - as Apple and others have suggested - would be an effective medium for solving issues evoked by the court order.

Farook had worked as a county health inspector. Larson said the government has a strong case because of Farook's diminished privacy interests as a "dead, murderous terrorist" and because the phone was owned by his employer, the county government. "You're weighing that against the interest of enforcement in an investigation and the victims and their interest in obtaining this knowledge," he said.



Image: Pablo Martinez



Apple Inc. CEO Tim Cook has said that creating such software is a dangerous precedent that would threaten data security for millions by making essentially a master key that could later be duplicated and used against other phones.

On Tuesday, former Solicitor General Ted Olson, who is representing Apple, said the company has invested heavily to design a secure phone and that if Apple submits to the government pressure in this instance, "it will happen again and again and again." Olson served as the government's top lawyer before the Supreme Court during the administration of President George W. Bush.

"We have a constitution and we have civil liberties in this country. Terrorists want to take that away from us," he said in an appearance on "CBS This Morning." Gregory Clayborn, whose 27-year-old daughter, Sierra, died in the attack, said he hasn't been asked to join the case but believes Apple is obligated to unlock the phone.

"This makes me a little bit angry with Apple," Clayborn said. "It makes me question their interest in the safety of this country."

Clayborn said he understands Apple's concerns, but unlocking one phone for the FBI, he said, is "as simple as it gets."



Image: Lucy Nicholson

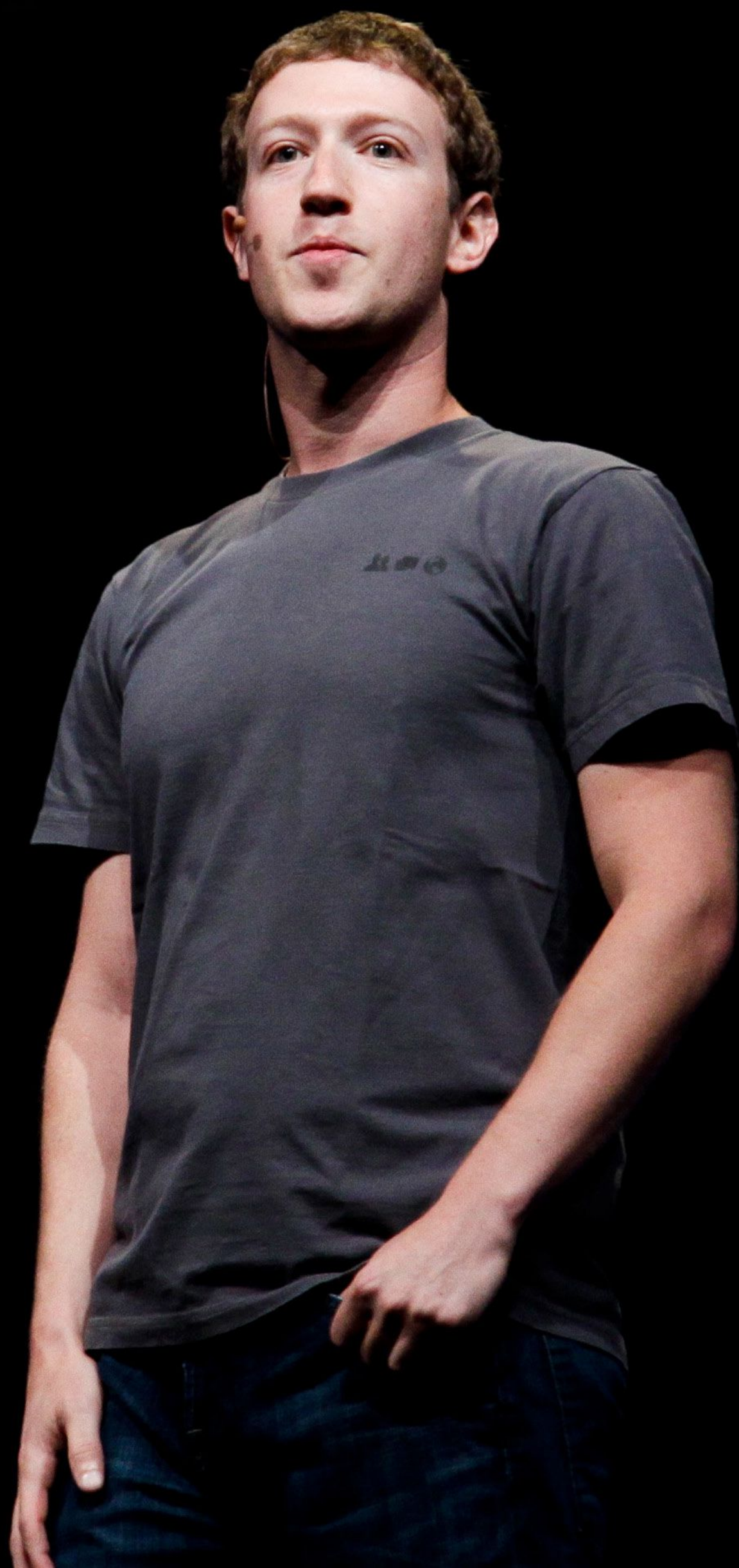


Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg on Monday expressed his support for Apple while in Barcelona, Spain, to speak at the Mobile World Congress, saying he believes in helping the government in its fight against terrorism but that encryption is important.


"I don't think that back doors into encryption is going to increase security or is in the direction the world is going," he said.

Apple's supporters planned to protest the FBI's demands on Tuesday evening outside Apple's stores in about 50 cities in the U.S., the U.K., Germany and Hong Kong.

A Pew Research Center survey found that 51 percent of Americans said Apple should unlock the iPhone, while 38 percent said Apple should not - and that it should ensure the security of user information. The remainder gave no opinion. The telephone survey was conducted Feb. 18 through Feb. 21 among 1,002 adults.





A photograph showing the rear of a dark-colored car, possibly a sedan, parked on a paved surface. The car's taillight is visible. In the background, a cityscape is visible under a hazy sky, suggesting a high vantage point like a hill or rooftop.

UBER FORCED TO DRIVE DEFENSIVELY, AGAIN, AFTER MASS SHOOTING

As authorities look for the reasons why a Michigan man allegedly embarked on a mass shooting spree over the weekend, the ride-hailing service Uber is addressing his record as a driver with the company.

Critics say the episode could bring more attention to concerns about the fast-growing service, which has been dogged by controversy on the road to becoming one of the most valuable privately funded companies in the world.

Jason Dalton, the man arrested in connection with the Kalamazoo rampage that left six people dead, is a former insurance adjuster who had been working as a driver for Uber's ride-hailing service. Authorities were investigating unconfirmed reports he may have picked up passengers in the hours before and after the rampage on Saturday.

San Francisco-based Uber has been one of the most successful tech industry startups in recent years, as millions of customers have flocked to use its smartphone app for hailing rides in 380 cities around the globe. The company says its drivers are independent contractors who use the app to help find customers and schedule trips.

Private backers have poured more than \$10 billion into the company, under terms that value the business at more than \$50 billion - making it the biggest in a recent wave of tech firms that have grown to enormous size without taking the traditional step of selling stock to the public.

But since its launch in 2009, Uber has faced criticism for a pricing formula that can send rates skyrocketing at times of high demand, and for side-stepping regulators and licensing requirements in some cities where it's opened for business. And after several reported assaults by drivers, critics have also complained the company should do more to screen drivers and guard passengers' safety.

Some of that criticism has been raised by competitors and regulators who argue that Uber's success has come as the company has expanded while seeking to avoid the strict licensing and permit requirements that traditional tax companies face.



Image: Benjamin Chasteen



"I do think this is an outrageous incident that's going to draw more attention to this issue," said Dave Sutton, spokesman for "Who's Driving You," an organization backed by Uber's competitors in the taxi and limousine industry, which has fought the company's expansion.

Authorities identified Dalton as a 45-year-old from Kalamazoo Township who police said had no criminal record. They said victims of the shootings in and around the city of Kalamazoo had no apparent connection to him or to each other.

Uber spokeswoman Nairi Hourdajian confirmed Dalton had driven for Uber. Hourdajian wouldn't say whether he was picking up fares for the ride-sharing service Saturday night.

Authorities, however, were investigating a Facebook post which indicated the suspect was driving erratically around the time of the shootings and may have picked up at least one Uber fare while authorities were looking for him, according to Kalamazoo County Prosecutor Jeff Getting.

Uber said Sunday that it has offered to assist authorities in their investigation. In a statement, Uber chief security officer Joe Sullivan said the company is "horrified and heartbroken at the senseless violence."

While Uber says it screens drivers and conducts background checks, critics say the ride-hailing company uses private screening services that don't have access to as much information as local police can obtain when they check fingerprint records.

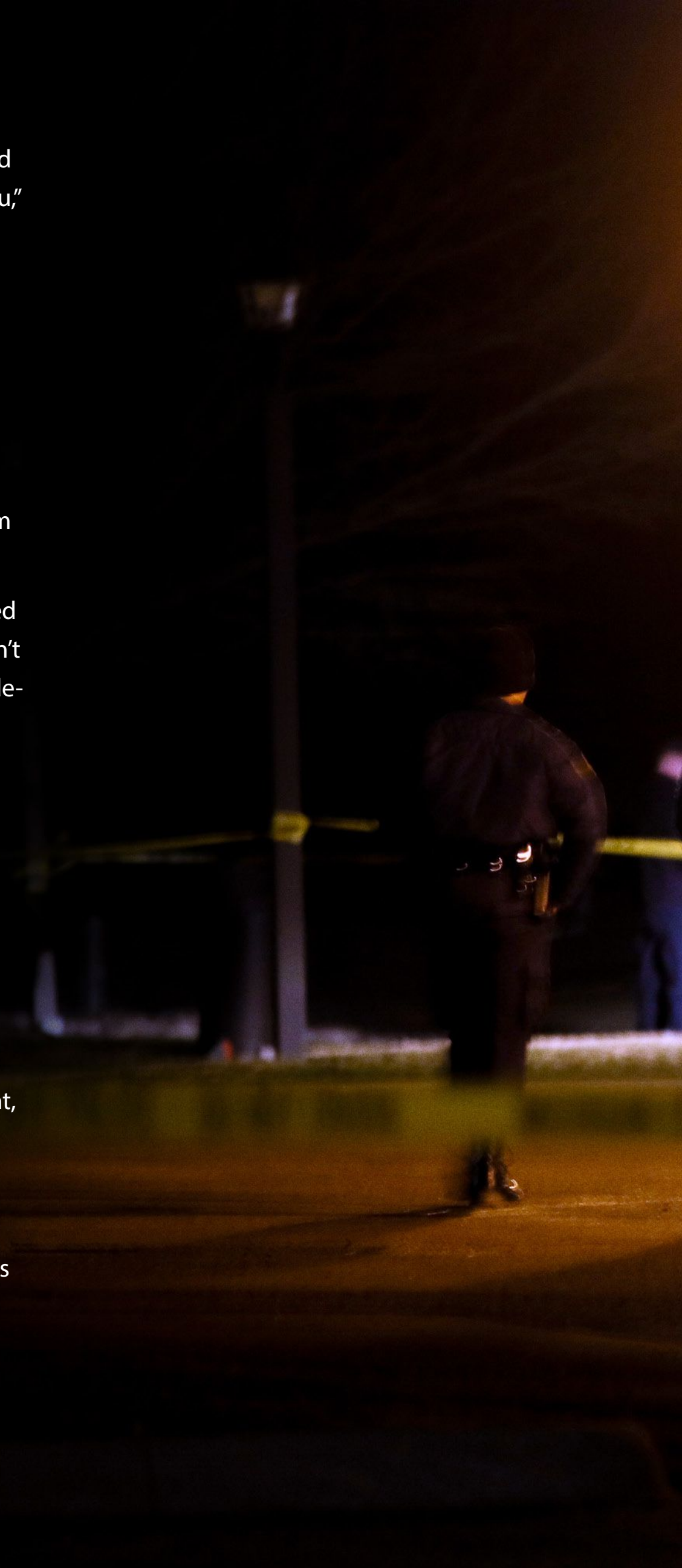


Image: Mark Bugnaski



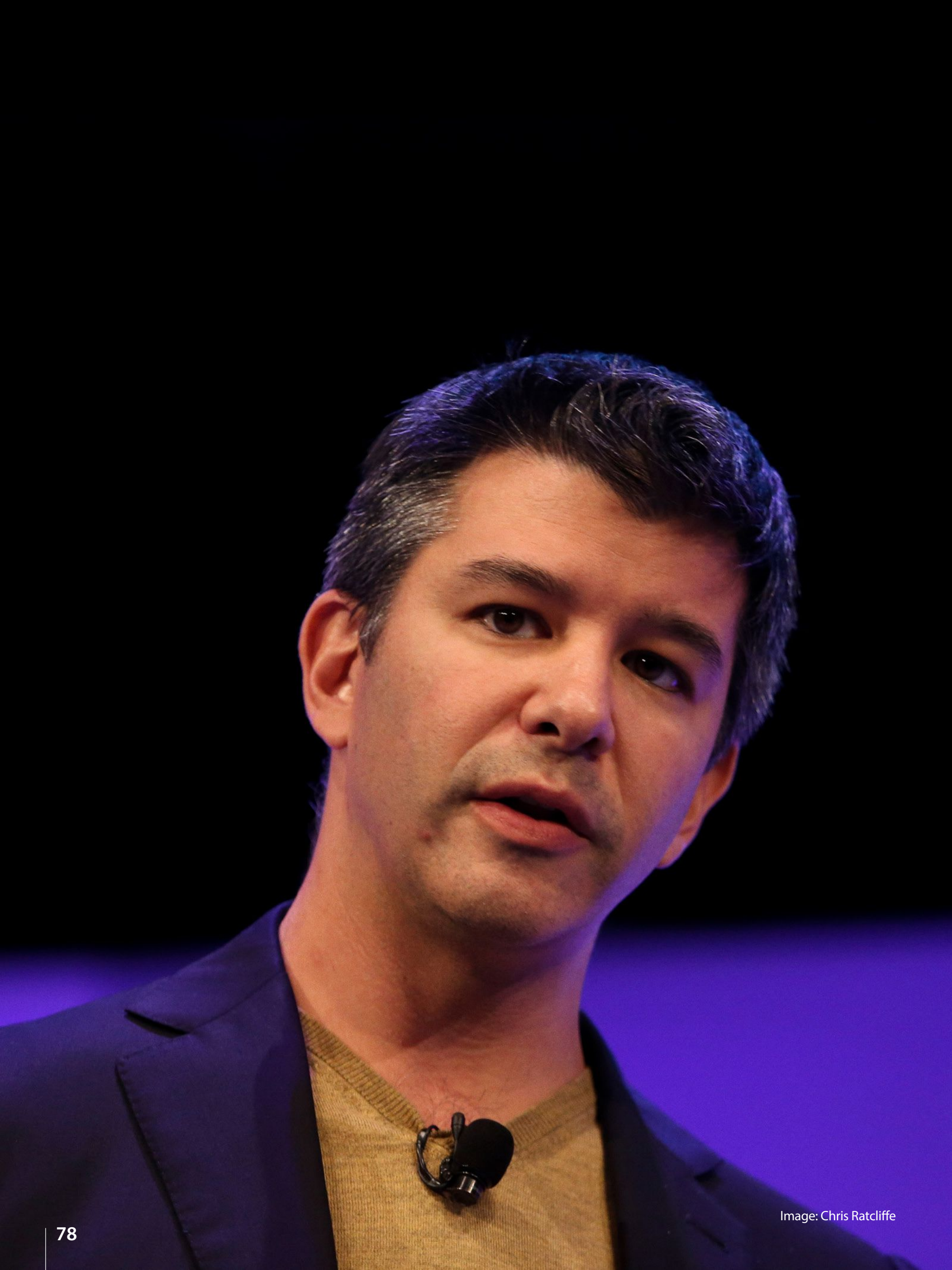



Image: Chris Ratcliffe



The company said earlier this month that it will pay \$28.5 million to settle two lawsuits that alleged Uber misled customers about safety procedures and fees. It's also facing a separate lawsuit by district attorneys in San Francisco and Los Angeles, who alleged that Uber's checks failed to prevent the company from hiring several felons.

If Dalton had no criminal record, it's not clear that Uber would have had any reason to keep him from driving. Uber, meanwhile, instituted a policy last year that prohibits driver and passengers from possessing firearms. Anyone found to be in violation of the policy may be prohibited from using or driving for the service.

While there have been several cases in which Uber drivers have been charged with assaulting passengers, there have also been incidents in which the company's drivers have been attacked by passengers.

Uber has also faced complaints that one of its executives in New York used information collected by the Uber app to track a passenger's movements. The company has since said that it has taken steps to protect passenger's privacy, including strict limits on access to the identities of riders.



WELCOME TO
TOY FAIR
NY16

TECH TOYS ABOUND AT NEW YORK TOY FAIR



From a preschool toy designed to teach pre-coding skills to a hands-on molecule-building set for older kids that works with an app, technology abounded at this year's Toy Fair.

The annual showcase of upcoming toys held recently in New York included a slew of tech-related products from the titans of the toy industry and tiny startups, all looking to attract increasingly tech-savvy kids.

Here are the highlights. Some of the toys are educational, while others are just kind of cool. All of them are set to go on sale this fall unless otherwise specified.





CODE-A-PILLAR (FISHER-PRICE, \$50)

Even preschoolers can learn the basics of coding. That's the idea behind this toy, which is aimed at kids ages 3 to 6.

The Code-a-Pillar is made up of different colored sections connected by USB plugs. The sections perform different commands such as go straight, turn right or make various sound effects.

Kids "program" the toy by connecting the various sections in a particular order. While the toy doesn't teach an actual coding language, it does try to impart some of the same critical thinking and problem solving skills that coding does.

A starter kit includes eight sections, but expansion packs featuring additional commands will be sold separately.

THINGMAKER 3D PRINTER (MATTEL, \$300)

Created through a partnership with Autodesk Inc., a 3D design software company, kids use an app to design items such as action figures and jewelry.

They can choose the colors and shapes they want, then send their design to the ThingMaker to print. The app shows them what their finished product will look like and also gives an estimated print time.

The ThingMaker hits stores this fall, but can be preordered through Amazon. Pricing for the spools of plastic used in the printer has yet to be determined.





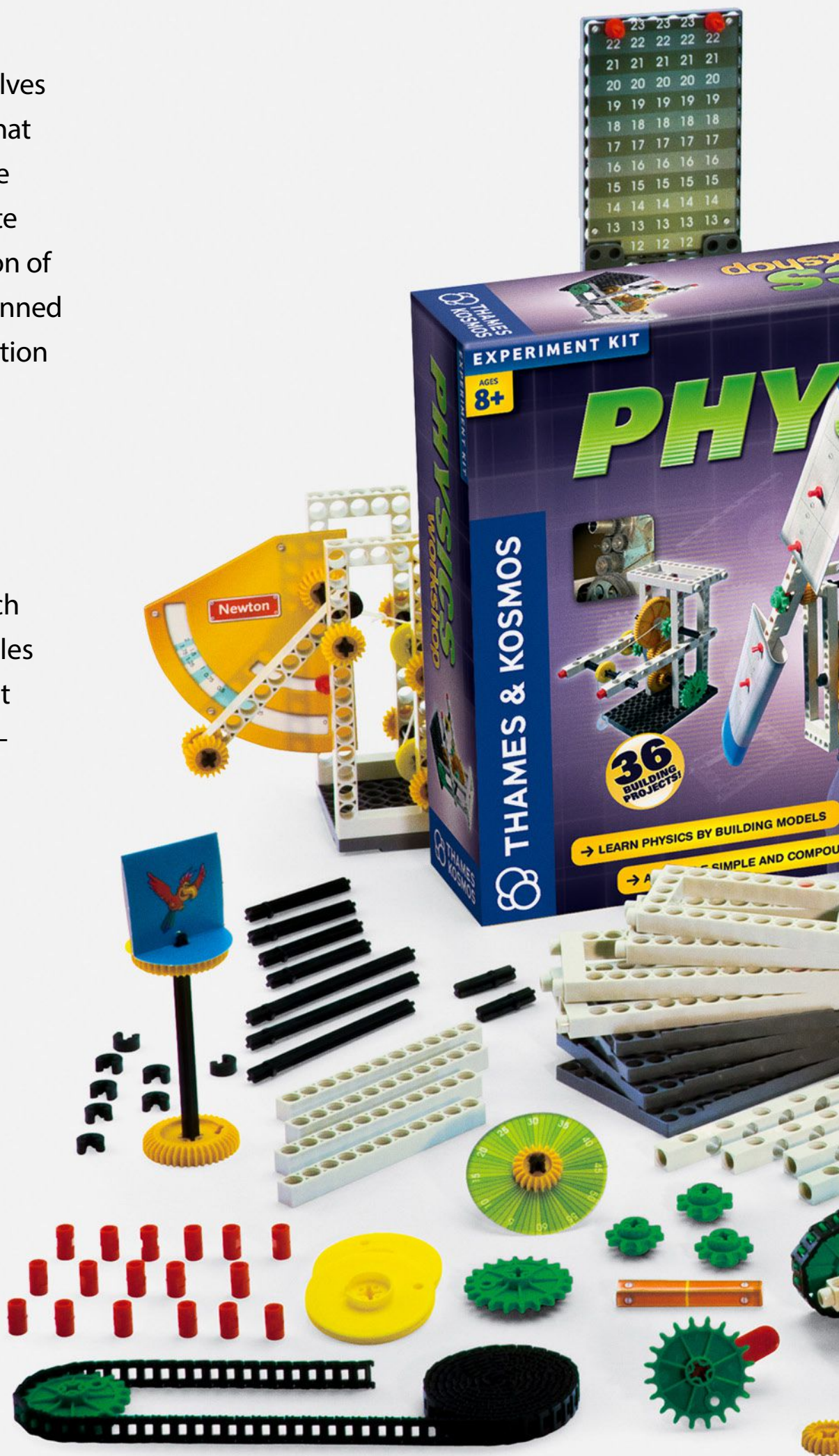
HAPPY ATOMS AND CODEGAMER SCIENCE KITS (THAMES & KOSMOS, \$150 FOR CODEGAMER)

These kits teach science by combining hands-on and app-based activities.

Happy Atoms, for kids ages 8 and up, involves building molecules with wooden atoms that connect with magnets. The atoms become “happy” when they pick up the appropriate number of electrons through the formation of molecules. The molecules can then be scanned into the app, which gives the kids information about the substance they just made.

Pricing for Happy Atoms has yet to be determined.

Meanwhile, CodeGamer, ages 10 and up, connects physical and digital play to teach coding skills. Kids solve video game puzzles by both programming the game on a tablet and by physically modifying a Bluetooth-connected controller.









MAKERBLOKS (\$200)

These circuit builder sets are specifically designed for young children. The blocks, which look a lot like dominos, connect with magnets and are easy for little hands to manipulate.

The company offers three sets of 26 blocks, each with a separate theme: music, circuitry and spy. There's a tablet app to go with each set, which tells a story, prompting the kids to build certain kinds of circuits.

MakerBlocs, designed for kids 6 and up, launches this summer and will be sold through the company's website, though talks with retailers are under way.





AIR HOGS CONNECT: MISSION DRONE (SPIN MASTER, \$150)

This toy, designed for kids ages 10 and up, combines a handful of the hottest trends, including drones, app-based gaming and augmented reality.

Players place the quad-copter drone on a mat that “sees” it and places a digital version of it within an augmented reality video game played on a smartphone or tablet. The player flies the physical drone as part of the game and the digital drone on the smartphone or tablet screen mirrors its movements.

CHIP (WOWWEE, \$200)

CHiP is was one of several products at Toy Fair controlled by a wristband worn by the user. The connection allows the little robot dog to follow his owner around, play soccer and do other tricks. The more it's played with, the more tricks are unlocked.

Sensors allow CHiP, designed for kids ages 8 and up, to zoom around while avoiding obstacles. And when he gets tired, the little pup will automatically retire to his charging bed for more juice.





SELFIEMIC (MOOSE TOYS, \$25)

This toy lets kids create and share their own pop music videos. It's basically a selfie stick with a microphone on one end. It comes with an earpiece and works with a smartphone app.

Kids sing into the microphone, while the smartphone app plays the music and the smartphone's camera films them singing and places them into the music video.

There are optional sound and video effects and the videos, which don't need to be stored on the phone and take up space, can be shared.

MOBILE EVERYTHING

MOBILE IS
EVERYTHING

MOBILE IS
CONNECTIVITY



MOBILE IS
IDENTITY



MOBILE IS
UTILITIES



MOBILE IS
INTEGRITY





FOOD PRINTERS AND EYE WRITING: TECH SHOW'S QUIRKIEST GADGETS

While tens of thousands flock to the Mobile World Congress to check out the latest smartphones, the show also offers glimpses of some of the coolest off-beat - and downright strange - innovations.

Many of these newfangled prototypes found a niche at the trade show's special corner for start-ups, which gathered here to find business deals for their inventions.

Here is a look at the quirkiest of the gadgets and apps on display this week in Barcelona.



MAGIC DRAWINGS

Remember pop-up books?

Chromville takes the idea to another dimension with its augmented reality educational app.

Here is how it works: Kids download and print pages with designs that they color in as they wish.

Next, they hold a tablet over the page and, via the Chromville app, the drawing turns into a 3-D image they can interact with through the screen.

The one on the solar system, for example, lets kids explore the planets, zoom in and out, and learn facts. Other modules teach about the human body, the metamorphosis of a frog, simple geography, or how to build a machine.

"It is something like magic. We have to play and enjoy education," said Hector Perez, CEO of the company from Zaragoza, Spain.

As of December, a one-time fee of 3.99 euros (\$4.39) gives customers the app and access to drawings.



FOOD PRINTER

Natural Machines co-founder Lynette Kucsma insists her company hasn't replicated Star Trek's "food synthesizer" that made munchies appear at Captain Kirk's mere command.

But they sure have come close with their 3-D food printer.

The Foodini lays down layer after layer of food from nozzles, ultimately creating treats like ravioli, crackers, or chicken nuggets.

The company says you can even make more complex items like hamburgers, though it's not clear what they would look like coming through nozzles.

"You become the food manufacturer," Kucsma said, adding that the Foodini would allow cooks to use more natural ingredients to make healthier food instead of buying prepared foodstuffs with added preservatives.

The Foodini can also link up with other connected devices. "You can print recipes from a chef who is halfway around the world," Kucsma said.

The Barcelona-based company is launching the Foodini with the target of professional chefs to meet the \$1,500-2,000 price tag. They plan to later expand to regular customers.

"In 10 to 15 years we think 3-D food printers will be as common in kitchens as microwaves," Kucsma said.









EYE WRITING

We can write with our touch. We can write with our voice. Irisbond is making it easier to write with our sight.

Their eye-tracking app, which can work with standard smartphone cameras, allows you to type on a computer.

Co-founder and CEO Eduardo Jauregui said the app is designed for disabled users.

"They can send emails or write books with their eyes. It changes their lives completely," Jauregui said.

But it could also be helpful for professionals, like surgeons, who may have limited use of their hands during work.

Irisbond allows users to control a mouse pointer on a virtual keyboard of a smartphone or tablet. Stare for one second over a letter to "push" the button and type.

Jauregui said his company based in San Sebastian, Spain, is in talks with smartphone makers, including Samsung, to be acquired.



PAPER PROGRAMMING

Take paper art, a little round robot, throw in some low-level coding, and, voila! You have the Kamibot, an interactive toy that helps children have fun while learning computer programming.

Aimed at kids as young as eight, the Kamibot robot can be covered with paper-made “skins” to turn it into a variety of characters, including Dracula, Frankenstein, and several popular figures in Korea.

An app controls the robot’s movement, and teaches users how to program routes for the robot to follow.

Head of design Asaph Kim said “the idea was making programming fun through characters (children) have seen on TV.”

Still at the kick-starter phase, the Korean company 3.14 is hoping to ship its first Kamibots in June. Pre-orders go for \$89.







PACK ROBOTS

One gadget that caused a big stir as it moseyed through the aisles of the trade show was Starship's delivery robot.

Don't let the company's name fool you.

The tub-sized robot on rollers won't blast you away, but it just might make home delivery more convenient as it creeps its way down the sidewalk.

Co-founder Janus Friis, one of the creators of Skype, had the idea to create a fleet of wheeled robots that would work with stores making deliveries from hubs that cover neighborhoods.

Keith Cornell, Starship's senior advisor, said customers would gain from being able to decide exactly when they receive their packages, while stores will reduce costs.

To ensure the robot doesn't cause mayhem on the street, its max speed is a slow 4 mph and it includes sensors that force it to stop when facing an obstacle. If stuck, it can be taken over remotely by an operator.

Customers will use an app to program the drop-offs and unlock the robot once it arrives to retrieve their goods. It can carry up to 20 pounds of stuff.

Still in testing phase, these modern-day pack mules are expected to be deployed in 2017.

CAMERA BOOST, VIRTUAL REALITY IN NEW SAMSUNG, LG GADGETS

To revive interest in smartphones, Samsung and LG are improving their cameras and embracing the nascent world of virtual reality.

And Samsung is being backed by Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, who said Sunday the companies are teaming up to push VR in mobile phones and social networking.

"Together this is by far the best mobile VR experience you can offer," Zuckerberg said at Samsung's unveiling of their new flagship phones in Barcelona.







Image: Beбето Matthews



Samsung's new Galaxy S7 and S7 Edge promise better photos under low-light conditions, in part with sensors that capture more light. The main camera on LG's upcoming G5 smartphone will have two lenses - one for standard shots and another with a wider angle so you can capture more of what's in front of you without having to step back.

Both companies will also release several camera-related accessories. Samsung, which unveiled a virtual-reality device for consumers last fall, will now make a 360-degree camera for everyday folks to capture and share VR images. The company will also make smartphone cases with a hole to screw in special lenses, such as wide angle and fisheye views.

LG will have its own VR headset - a lighter version of Samsung's Gear VR - as well as a smartphone attachment that functions as a camera grip with physical buttons to take shots and control video recording. The attachment is part of LG's new modular approach to design; you'll be able to pop out the phone's bottom and swap in new hardware features.

The announcements at the Mobile World Congress wireless show in Barcelona, Spain, come as worldwide smartphone growth has slowed, particularly for high-end devices such as Samsung's S and LG's G series. Many consumers have turned to lower-cost Android devices that sport features considered top of the line just a few years ago.

"Today we stand at that beginning of new era," said Samsung president of mobile communications business, DJ Koh. "Here at the beginning of 2016 who doesn't take

smartphones for granted? Having seen everything the smartphone can deliver, at Samsung we have other ideas."

To underscore Samsung's emphasis on VR, Zuckerberg made an appearance at the Samsung event to announce a partnership between the two companies to push their VR products.

"(VR) is now mainly used for gaming, but that is quickly changing," Zuckerberg said. "That is why Facebook is investing so much in VR, so we can deliver these social experiences. And that is why we are working with Samsung."

Analysts said VR was critical for the industry to get customers to part with old phones that they are still happy with and buy new ones.





"All the smartphone makers are now competing with themselves from two-to-three years ago, their problem is that phones from two-to-three years ago are still in use," Ian Fogg, head of mobile analysis at IHS Technology, told The Associated Press. "VR is essential. It is a smartphone industry initiative to drive consumers to upgrade."


Phone makers used to guarantee upgrades by making phones bigger and bigger - but phones can't get much bigger for one-handed use. In fact, the new LG phone is shrinking to 5.3 inches, from 5.5 inches last year. Samsung's Edge is getting bigger, at 5.5 inches, but because the sides curve, the phone won't be much wider. The main S7 model is staying constant at 5.1 inches.

With size out of the equation, phone makers have to innovate elsewhere.

That's been crucial for Samsung, in particular, as its chief rival, Apple, largely matched Samsung on size, while boosting the iPhone camera's resolution to 12 megapixels from 8. The iPhone has also gotten better at low-light shots, even surpassing some stand-alone, point-and-shoot cameras.



Image: Manu Fernandez



Realizing that the megapixel count alone doesn't necessarily translate to quality images, Samsung is reducing resolution in the new phones to 12 megapixels from 18. That allows individual pixels on the sensors to be larger, thus capturing more light. The new cameras also allow the camera's aperture to open wider, letting in more light. Together, the shutter needs to stay open for a shorter time, reducing the blurring that sometimes mars indoor and night shots.

Samsung also says its new phones will have a faster focus, which it says will improve performance at low light.

And for the selfie camera, Samsung is turning the screen into a flash, similar to what Apple introduced last fall.

Samsung is restoring the ability to add storage, but the battery won't be replaceable by users. Instead, Samsung is increasing the battery capacity in both models, though the Edge's larger screen and other new features in both models, including an always-on mode, will sip away power.

The new phones will start shipping March 11, with advance orders to begin this week. In some markets, including the U.S., Samsung is including a Gear VR headset for free to those who order ahead of time.

Prices will vary by carrier and region. In the U.S., AT&T, Sprint and T-Mobile are offering the regular version for \$650 to \$695 and the Edge version for about \$100 more. Verizon hasn't announced prices yet.

In a few months, Samsung will start selling its Gear 360 camera, a device with front and back





lenses to stitch together 360-degree videos for VR devices and apps. Samsung phones will come with apps for viewing those videos on the Gear VR and sharing them with friends.

VR is still in its early days, with much of the interest coming from hard-core gamers and tech pioneers. Samsung wants to make it easier for everyday people to create VR videos - so that their friends will buy VR headsets to view them.

LG, meanwhile, designed the LG 360 VR headset to work with an LG smartphone that's attached by a cable. With Samsung's VR device, the smartphone is inserted at eye level and becomes the headset's display, increasing the weight on the head. LG's version has built-in, lighter displays in the headset's eyepieces. LG is also making a 360-degree camera similar to Samsung's.

Prices and release dates for the LG phone and accessories from both companies have yet to be announced, though the LG phone is expected in the U.S. in April.

Neither VR system will be as powerful as full-fledged VR devices coming this year. HTC said Sunday that a consumer version of the Vive will start selling in early April for \$799, with ordering to begin Feb. 29. A personal computer is required and sold separately.

VR isn't limited to high-end devices: On Saturday, Alcatel announced a mid-range Idol 4S - with packaging that can be folded into VR headset.

TOP Free Apps

iOS



#01 – TIDAL

By TIDAL Music AS

Category: Music

Requires iOS 8.1 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#02 – Color Switch

By Samuel Ratumaitavuki

Category: Games

Requires iOS 6.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#03 – Snapchat

By Snapchat, Inc.

Category: Photo & Video

Requires iOS 7.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#04 – Messenger

By Facebook, Inc.

Category: Social Networking

Requires iOS 7.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#05 – Facebook

By Facebook, Inc.

Category: Social Networking

Requires iOS 7.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#06 – Instagram

By Instagram, Inc.

Category: Photo & Video

Requires iOS 7.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#07 – YouTube

By Google, Inc.

Category: Photo & Video

Requires iOS 7.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#08 – Pandora

By Pandora Media, Inc.

Category: Music

Requires iOS 7.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#09 – iTunes U

By Apple

Category: Education

Requires iOS 8.3 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#10 – Netflix

By Netflix, Inc.

Category: Entertainment

Requires iOS 7.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#01 – OS X El Capitan

By Apple

Category: Utilities

Compatibility: OS X 10.6.8 or later



#02 – Kindle

By AMZN Mobile LLC

Category: Reference

Compatibility: OS X 10.8 or later



#03 – ooVoo Video Call, Text and Voice

By ooVoo LLC

Category: Social Networking

Compatibility: OS X 10.7 or later, 64-bit processor



#04 – The Unarchiver

By Dag Agren

Category: Utilities

Compatibility: OS X 10.6.0 or later, 64-bit processor



#05 – Full Deck Solitaire

By GRL Games

Category: Games

Compatibility: OS X 10.6.6 or later



#06 – App for Instagram

By Joacim Ståhl

Category: Social Networking

Compatibility: OS X 10.7 or later, 64-bit processor



#07 – Xcode

By Apple

Category: Developer Tools

Compatibility: OS X 10.8.4 or later



#08 – Fotor Photo Editor

By Chengdu Everimaging Science and Technology Co., Ltd

Category: Photography

Compatibility: OS X 10.6 or later, 64-bit processor



#09 – OneDrive

By Microsoft Corporation

Category: Productivity

Compatibility: OS X 10.9.0 or later, 64-bit processor



#10 – App for Facebook

By Xiaomeng Lu

Category: Business

Compatibility: OS X 10.7 or later, 64-bit processor

TOP Free Apps

Mac OS X

TOP Paid Apps

iOS



#01 – Face Swap Live

By Mojang

Category: Games / Price: \$6.99

Requires iOS 5.1.1 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#02 – Minecraft – Pocket Edition

By Mojang

Category: Games / Price: \$6.99

Requires iOS 5.1.1 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#03 – Heads Up!

By Warner Bros.

Category: Games / Price: \$0.99

Requires iOS 7.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#04 – NBA 2K16

By 2K

Category: Games / Price: \$7.99

Requires iOS 9.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#05 – Akinator the Genie

By Elokence

Category: Entertainment / Price: \$1.99

Requires iOS 7.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#06 – Geometry Dash

By RobTop Games AB

Category: Games / Price: \$1.99

Requires iOS 5.1.1 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.

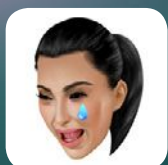


#07 – Facetune

By Lightricks Ltd.

Category: Photo & Video / Price: \$3.99

Requires iOS 7.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#08 – KIMOJI

By Whalerock Digital Media, LLC

Category: Entertainment / Price: \$1.99

Requires iOS 8.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#09 – Bloons TD 5

By Ninja Kiwi

Category: Games / Price: \$2.99

Requires iOS 6.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#10 – THE GAME OF LIFE Classic Edition

By Electronic Arts

Category: Games / Price: \$0.99

Requires iOS 5.1.1 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#01 – GarageBand

By Apple

Category: Music / Price: \$4.99

Compatibility: OS X 10.9 or later



#02 – Day One 2 Journal + Notes

By Bloom Built, LLC

Category: Lifestyle / Price: \$19.99

Compatibility: OS X 10.10 or later, 64-bit processor



#03 – Logic Pro X

By Apple

Category: Music / Price: \$199.99

Compatibility: OS X 10.8.4 or later, 64-bit processor



#04 – Airmail 2.6

By Bloop S.R.L.

Category: Utilities / Price: \$9.99

Compatibility: OS X 10.8 or later, 64-bit processor



#05 – The Sims™ 2: Super Collection

By Aspyr Media, Inc.

Category: Games / Price: \$29.99

Compatibility: OS X 10.9.2 or later



#06 – Polarr Photo Editor

By Polarr, Inc.

Category: Photography / Price: \$9.99

Compatibility: OS X 10.10 or later, 64-bit processor



#07 – Duplicate Photos Fixer Pro

By Systweak Software

Category: Photography / Price: \$0.99

Compatibility: OS X 10.7 or later



#08 – Disk Doctor

By FIPLAB Ltd

Category: Utilities / Price: \$2.99

Compatibility: OS X 10.7.3 or later, 64-bit processor



#09 – Document Writer

By xiong feng

Category: Business / Price: \$9.99

Compatibility: OS X 10.7 or later



#10 – AntiVirus Sentinel Pro

By Calin Popescu

Category: Utilities / Price: \$9.99

Compatibility: OS X 10.7 or later, 64-bit processor

TOP Paid Apps

Mac OS X

iTunes

Review



Trailer

JOLLY ROGER

Movies & TV Shows

Rotten Tomatoes



26%



iTunes Preview



by Joe Wright
Genre: Kids & Family
Released: 2015
Price: \$19.99

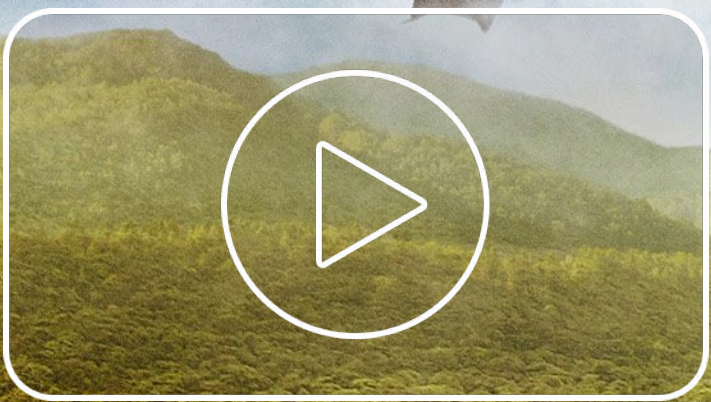
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
236 Ratings

Pan

A prequel to one of the world's most-loved fairy tales sees how the boy that never grew up met his soon-to-be-nemesis Captain Hook. The story may surprise you...

FIVE FACTS:

1. Levi Miller won a drama award when he was 5 years old for playing Peter Pan. He loves the film Peter Pan (2003).
2. The soundtrack to Pan is quite unusual for a movie of its kind, and features songs from artists such as The Ramones and Nirvana.
3. The movie sparked allegations of racism after white actress Rooney Mara was cast as Native American character Tiger Lily.
4. The movie has been nominated for several awards, including an award for 'Worst Supporting Actress'.
5. Director Joe Wright has also worked on Hanna, Anna Karenina, and Atonement.



Cast Interview



Dark Places

After witnessing the brutal massacre of her entire family at just eight years old, Libby (Charlize Theron) agrees to revisit the crime, and discover who was behind it once and for all...

FIVE FACTS:

1. Based on a the novel by Gillian Flynn of the same name.
2. The novel has been given several awards and accolades, including a place on the New York Times Best Seller List back in 2009.
3. This will be Nicholas Hoult and Charlize Theron's second movie together. They previously worked on recent blockbuster Mad Max: Fury Road
4. Executive producer Tobin Armbrust has also worked on The Woman In Black, Snitch, and Let Me In.
5. Gillian Flynn also assisted with writing the screenplay for Gone Girl.



iTunes Preview



by Gilles Paquet-Brenner
Genre: Thriller
Released: 2015
Price: \$14.99



129 Ratings

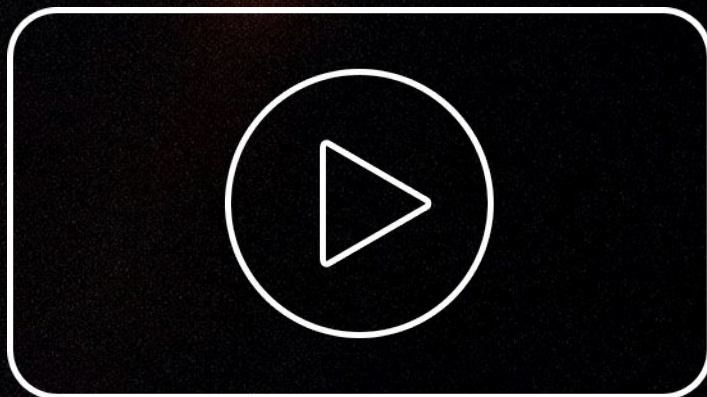
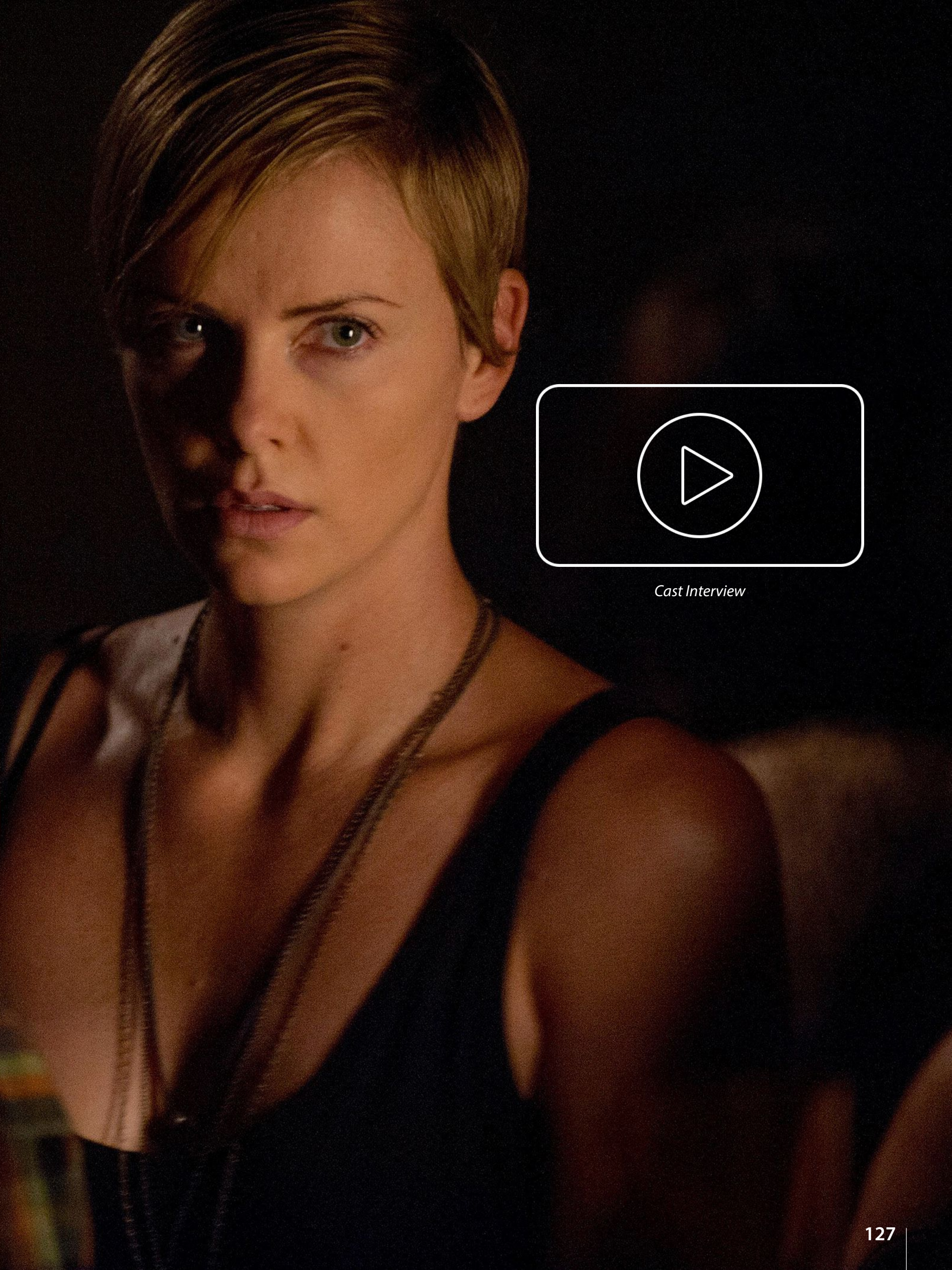




Trailer

DARK PLACES

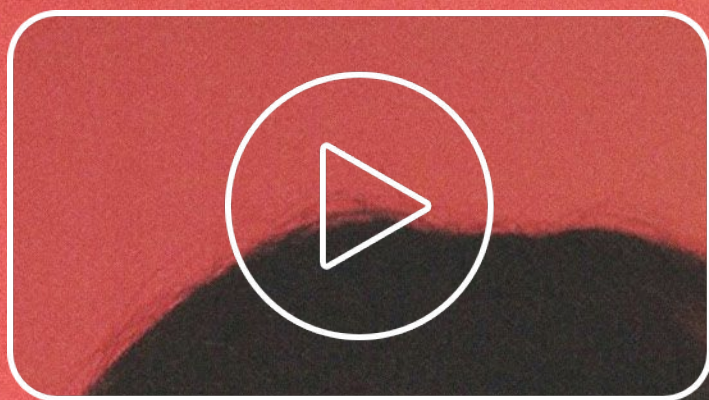




Cast Interview

iTunes

Review



Leading Single 'Doing the right thing'

Music



iTunes Preview



Genre: Alternative
Released: Jan 15, 2016
10 Songs
Price: \$7.99

★★★★★
151 Ratings

Not To Disappear

Daughter

The second album from British/Swiss/French indie rock band Daughter is just as charming as their first, which spawned popular single 'Youth'. Not To Disappear is a must-buy for any of their fans.

FIVE FACTS:

1. Daughter's songs have been used in popular culture a number of times, including episodes of Greys Anatomy and The Vampire Diaries, and for an advertisement for the Tour de France.
2. Daughter is signed to the 4AD record label, which is also home/has been home to artists such as Bon Iver, Pixies, and The National.
3. The band is signed to Glassnote in America, who also have artists such as Mumford and Sons, Phoenix, and The Temper Trap on their roster.
4. The band appeared on The David Letterman Show prior to the release of their debut album.
5. Daughter's first single 'Smother' was awarded 'Single of the Week' by BBC Radio 6 when it was released.



Second Single 'Numbers'



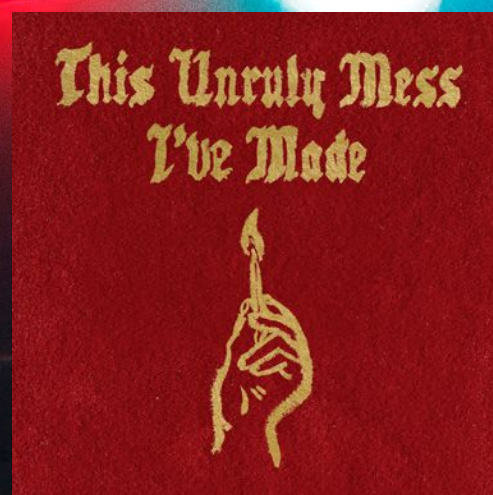
This Unruly Mess I've Made

Macklemore and
Ryan Lewis

The second album from the hip-hop duo, known for their infamous song 'Thrift Shop', is just as entertaining as their award-winning debut.

FIVE FACTS:

1. The duo was nominated for 7 Grammy Awards for first album *The Heist*, going on to win 4 of them.
2. Single 'White Privilege' has already come under fire, with many accusing it as being a case of 'white saviour syndrome'.
3. The duo's single 'Thrift Shop' reportedly saw an increase in custom for thrift shops around the world after its release.
4. *This Unruly Mess I've Made* features other notable artists including Ed Sheeran, Leon Bridges, and Chance the Rapper.
5. The pair were criticised after their win for 'Best Rap Album' at the Grammys for *The Heist*. They even agreed themselves that the award deserved to go to fellow nominee Kendrick Lamar.



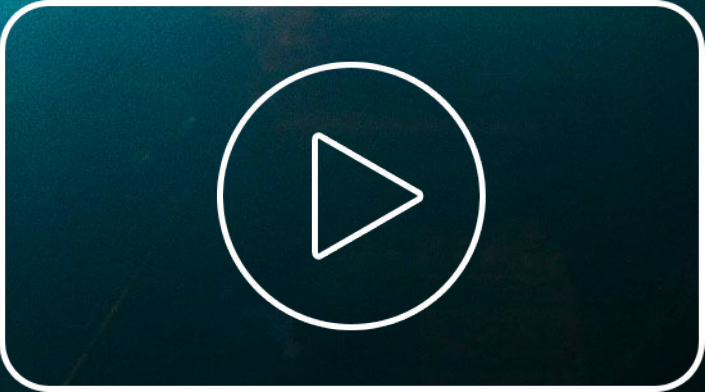
iTunes Preview



Genre: Hip-hop
Expected Release: Feb 26,
2016
13 Songs
Price: \$11.99

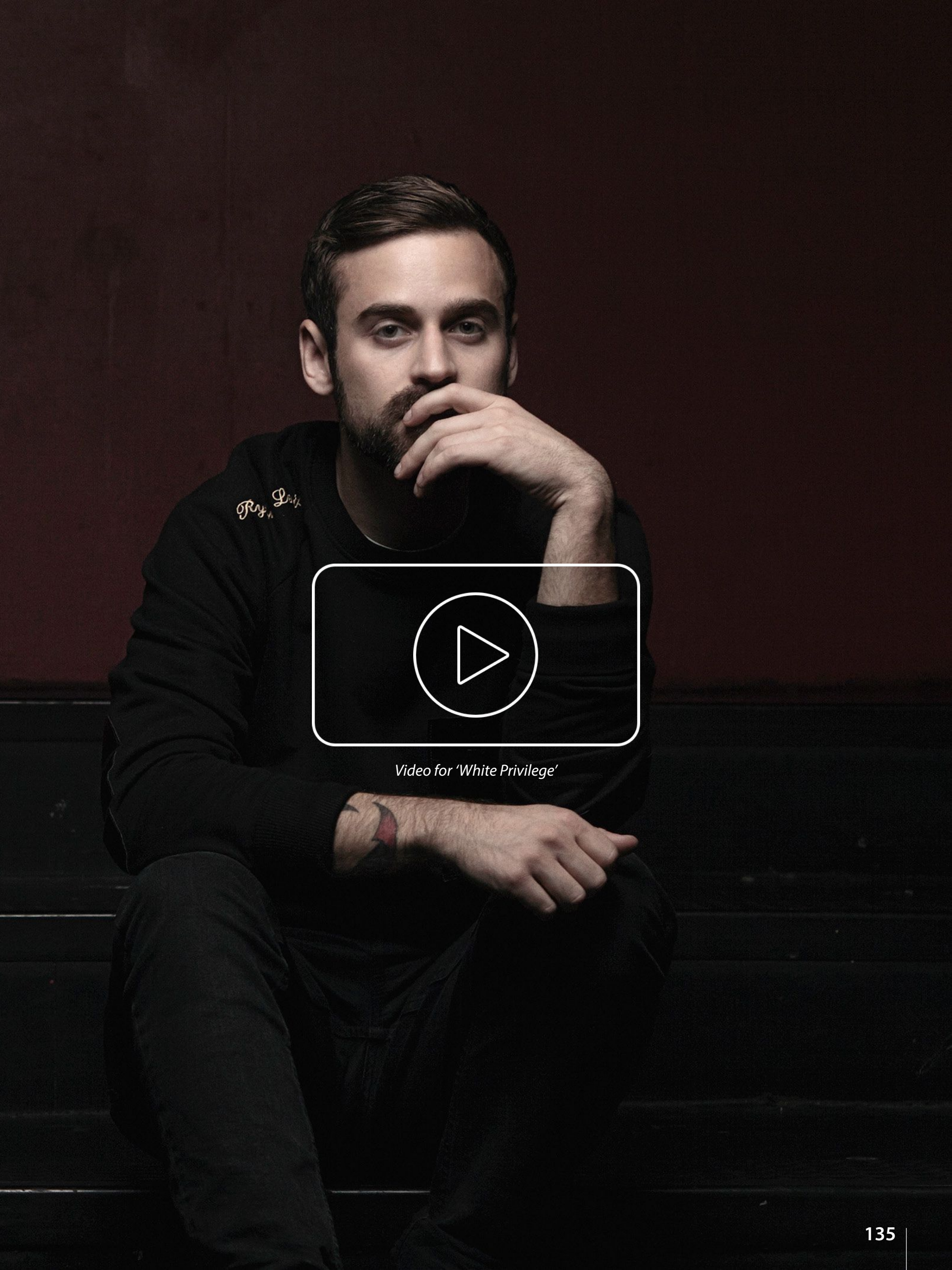
★★★★★
179 Ratings





Video for Single 'Downtown'





Ry Ry



Video for 'White Privilege'





BOX OFFICE TOP 20: 'DEADPOOL' STAYS ON TOP WITH \$56.5M

The R-rated comic book adaption "Deadpool" remained on top at the box office, earning \$56.5 million in its second weekend and bringing its two-week total to \$236.9 million.

The 20th Century Fox release, starring Ryan Reynolds, is on course to become one of the most lucrative R-rated films of all time. It easily trumped three smaller new wide releases.

The faith-based tale "Risen" opened with \$11.8 million. The 1600s Puritan horror thriller "The Witch" opened with \$8.8 million, the best weekend yet for the indie distributor A24. And Focus Features' Jesse Owens biopic "Race" debuted with a disappointing \$7.4 million.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by comScore:

1



7





1. "Deadpool," 20th Century Fox,
\$56,470,167, 3,722 locations, \$15,172
average, \$236,865,054, 2 weeks.

2. "Kung Fu Panda 3," 20th Century Fox,
\$12,516,601, 3,448 locations, \$3,630
average, \$117,121,185, 4 weeks.

3. "Risen," Sony, \$11,801,271, 2,915
locations, \$4,048 average, \$11,801,271,
1 week.

4. "The Witch," A24 Films, \$8,800,230,
2,046 locations, \$4,301 average,
\$8,800,230, 1 week.

5. "How To Be Single," Warner Bros.,
\$8,202,430, 3,357 locations, \$2,443
average, \$31,746,063, 2 weeks.

6. "Race," Focus Features, \$7,353,922,
2,369 locations, \$3,104 average,
\$7,353,922, 1 week.

7. "Zoolander 2," Paramount, \$5,455,344,
3,418 locations, \$1,596 average,
\$23,673,355, 2 weeks.

8. *"Star Wars: The Force Awakens," Disney,*
\$3,907,295, 1,618 locations, \$2,415
average, \$921,713,590, 10 weeks.

9. *"The Revenant," 20th Century Fox,*
\$3,866,741, 1,939 locations, \$1,994
average, \$165,183,291, 9 weeks.

10. *"Hail, Caesar!" Universal, \$2,745,705,*
1,726 locations, \$1,591 average,
\$26,258,850, 3 weeks.

11. *"Ride Along 2," Universal,*
\$2,229,825, 1,210 locations, \$1,843
average, \$86,515,305, 6 weeks.

12. *"The Choice," Lionsgate, \$1,802,224,*
1,817 locations, \$992 average,
\$16,619,702, 3 weeks.

13. *"The Lady In The Van," Sony Pictures*
Classics, \$1,504,739, 540 locations,
\$2,787 average, \$3,817,926, 6 weeks.

14. *"The Boy," STX Entertainment,*
\$1,436,592, 977 locations, \$1,470
average, \$33,360,570, 5 weeks.





10



14

15. *"The 5th Wave,"* Sony, \$1,312,378, 850 locations, \$1,544 average, \$31,956,244, 5 weeks.

16. *"The Finest Hours,"* Disney, \$1,010,546, 946 locations, \$1,068 average, \$25,473,815, 4 weeks.

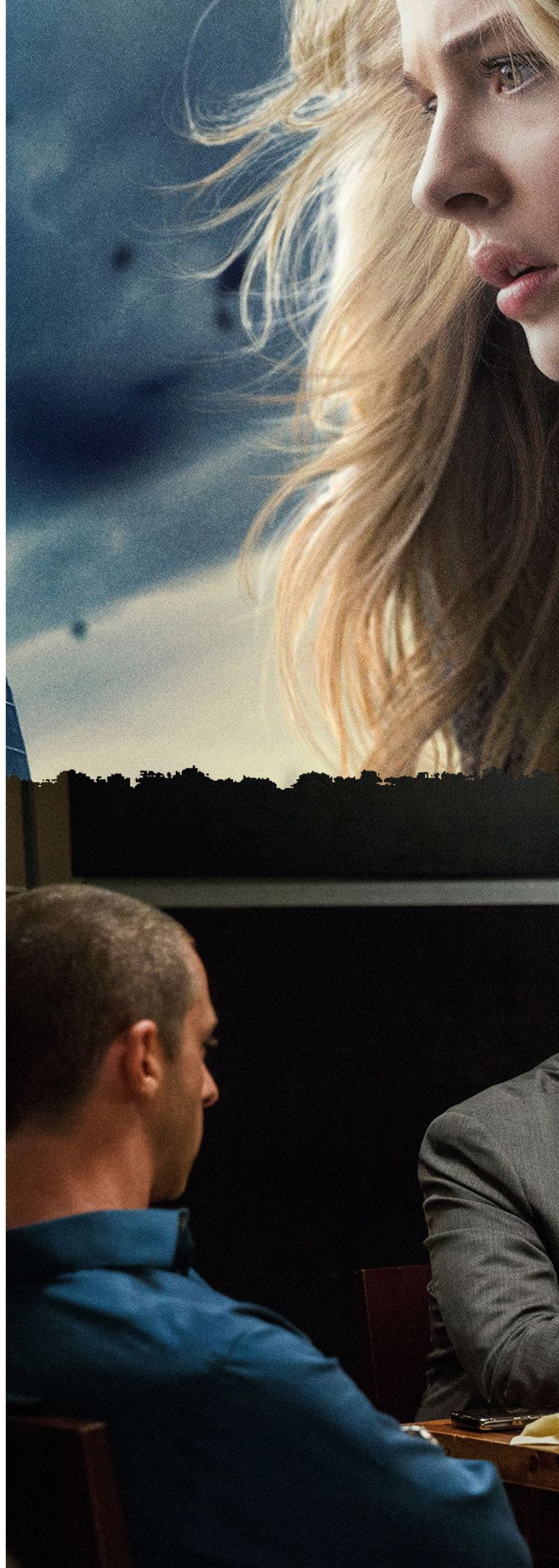
17. *"Mei Ren Yu (The Mermaid),"* Sony, \$985,052, 35 locations, \$28,144 average, \$985,052, 1 week.

18. *"Busco Novio Para Mi Mujer,"* Lionsgate, \$902,457, 357 locations, \$2,528 average, \$902,457, 1 week.

19. *"The Big Short,"* Paramount, \$887,975, 432 locations, \$2,055 average, \$67,135,716, 11 week.

20. *"Brooklyn,"* Fox Searchlight, \$766,626, 443 locations, \$1,731 average, \$35,364,727, 16 weeks.

Universal and Focus are owned by NBC Universal, a unit of Comcast Corp.; Sony, Columbia, Sony Screen Gems and Sony Pictures Classics are units of Sony Corp.; Paramount is owned by Viacom Inc.; Disney, Pixar and Marvel are owned by The Walt Disney Co.; Miramax is owned by Filmyard Holdings LLC; 20th Century Fox and Fox Searchlight are owned by 21st Century Fox; Warner Bros. and New Line are units of Time Warner Inc.; MGM is owned by a group of former creditors including Highland Capital, Anchorage Advisors and Carl Icahn; Lionsgate is owned by Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.; IFC is owned by AMC Networks Inc.; Rogue is owned by Relativity Media LLC.





15



19

YAHOO BOARD HIRES INVESTMENT BANKS TO MULL POSSIBLE SALE

Yahoo's board has hired three investment banking firms to evaluate potential bids for its Internet operations in the clearest sign yet that CEO Marissa Mayer may not have much more time to turn around the struggling company.

The move announced Friday comes 2 1/2 weeks after Yahoo disclosed it would consider "strategic alternatives" while Mayer cuts costs through mass layoffs, office closures and a purge of unprofitable products.

Mayer believes the overhaul will boost profits and sharpen Yahoo's focus on mobile apps and other services most likely to revive the company's revenue growth after years of decline.





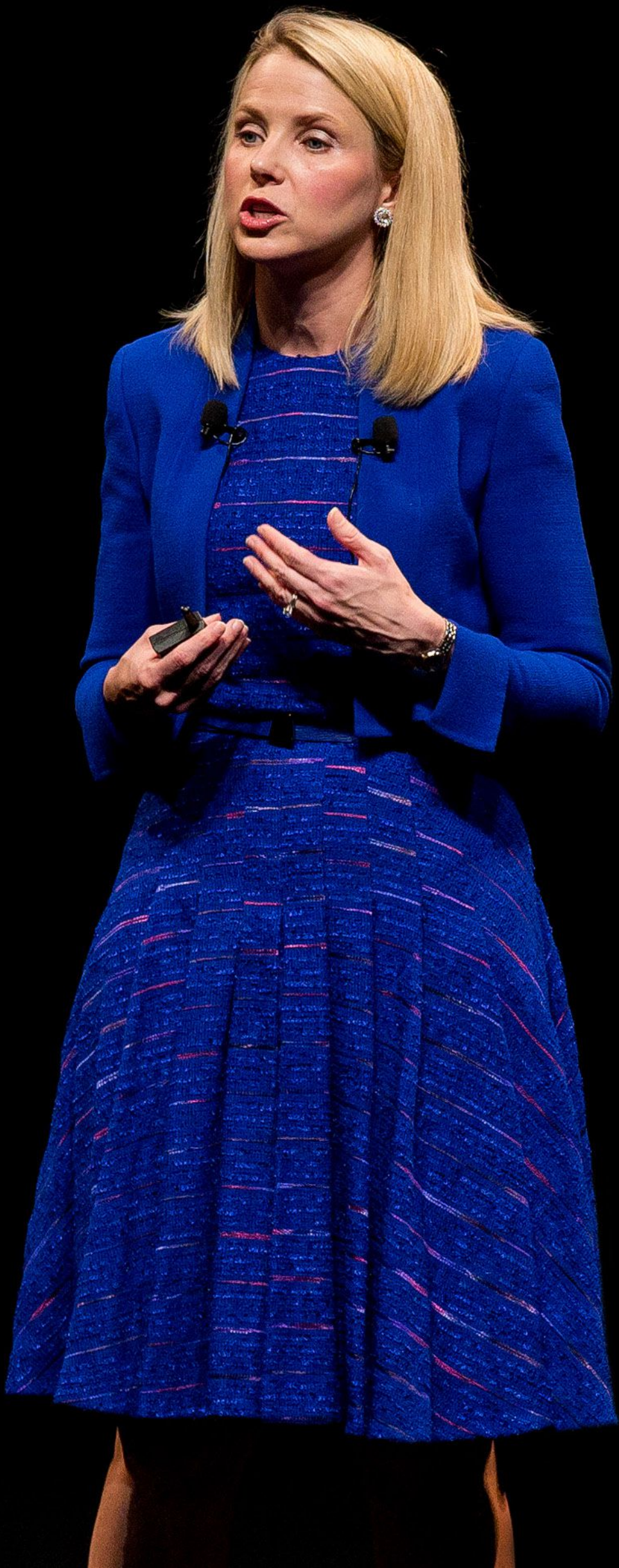
Some Yahoo shareholders frustrated with a steep drop in the company's stock price have been pushing for a sale of the Internet operations instead.

The board has now responded to that pressure by hiring investment bankers Goldman Sachs, J.P. Morgan and PJT Partners to set up a process for meeting with companies interested in buying all or parts of Yahoo's business. A special committee of Yahoo's directors will discuss the options with the bankers and the company's legal advisers, Cravath, Swaine & Moore.

While the board mulls those alternatives, Mayer will continue to pursue a turnaround plan that includes jettisoning 15 percent of Yahoo's workforce.

"We believe that pursuing these complementary paths is in the best interests of our shareholders and will maximize value," Yahoo Chairman Maynard Webb said in a statement.

Mayer also is trying to spin off Yahoo's Internet operations into a newly created company while leaving behind prized stakes in Alibaba Group, a rapidly growing Internet company in China, and Yahoo Japan. The proposed spinoff might not be completed until next year, if Yahoo's Internet business isn't sold before then.



Yahoo Inc. didn't identify any of the potential bidders that it might meet. Verizon Communications has publicly said it might be interested in buying parts of the company after paying \$4.4 billion last year to snap up another fading Internet company, AOL Inc.

Analysts believe Yahoo's other likely suitors may include AT&T, Comcast and various private equity firms that specialize in snapping up troubled companies with well-known brands such as Yahoo.

Virtually all of Yahoo's current market value of \$28 billion is tied to its stakes in Alibaba and Yahoo Japan. The holdings in Alibaba alone are valued at \$26 billion.

Analysts still believe Yahoo's line-up of still-popular services such as email, sports and finance could fetch several billion dollars in a sale.

Yahoo's stock gained 62 cents, or 2 percent, to close last Friday at \$30.04. The shares have plunged by 40 percent since the end of 2014.



FACEBOOK UPDATES MESSENGER APP TO HANDLE SEVERAL ACCOUNTS







Image: Bloomberg



Facebook has redesigned its popular Messenger app so several people can use it on the same smartphone or tablet without relinquishing their privacy.


The update announced Friday initially will only be available on devices running on Android, the world's most popular mobile operating system. Facebook didn't set a timetable for making similar changes to its Messenger app for Apple Inc.'s iPhone and iPad.

The new feature will accommodate multiple accounts without allowing people sharing the more versatile app to get into each other's queue of messages.

Facebook added the ability to switch accounts within the Messenger app after getting requests from people who share their smartphones and tablets with family and friends.

More than 800 million people currently use Messenger.

SCIENCE

The background of the page is a deep black space filled with numerous small, distant stars. A thin, bright blue horizontal line stretches across the lower third of the image, representing the Earth's horizon as seen from space. On the far left, a small, bright crescent moon is visible.

RECORD
NUMBER OF
ASTRONAUT
WANNABES
APPLY TO
NASA 18,300

Space travel never looked so good.

NASA announced it received a record number of applicants - some 18,300 - for its next astronaut class. That's more than double the previous record of 8,000 for the first space shuttle astronaut class in 1978. This time, NASA hit social media hard to promote the openings.

The odds of getting picked are small; only eight to 14 Americans will be chosen. NASA expects it will take 1½ years to whittle down the list. Candidates need to be U.S. citizens with a bachelor's degree in science, math or engineering.





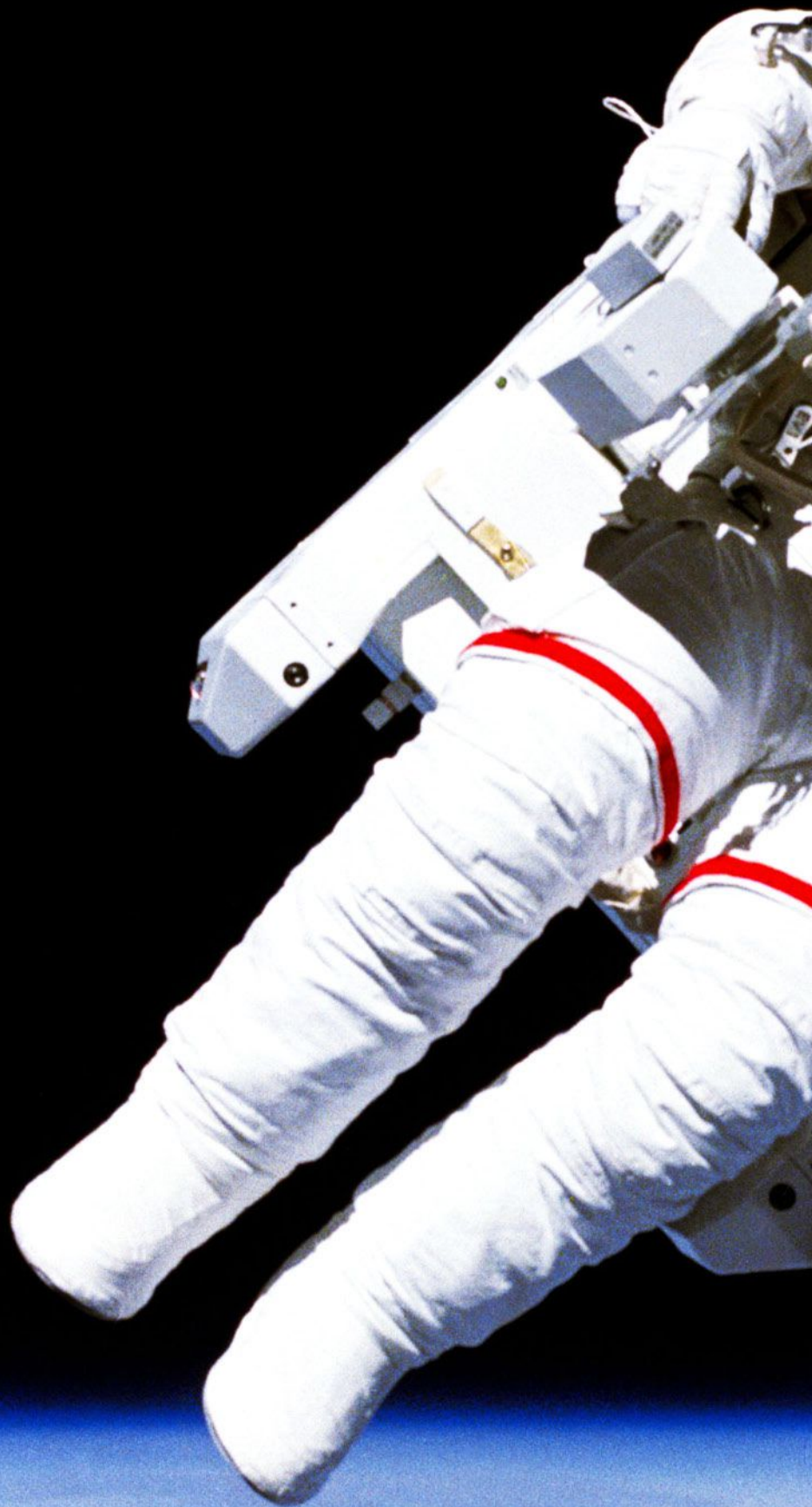
"It's not at all surprising to me that so many Americans from diverse backgrounds want to personally contribute to blazing the trail on our journey to Mars," NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, a former space shuttle commander, said in a statement.

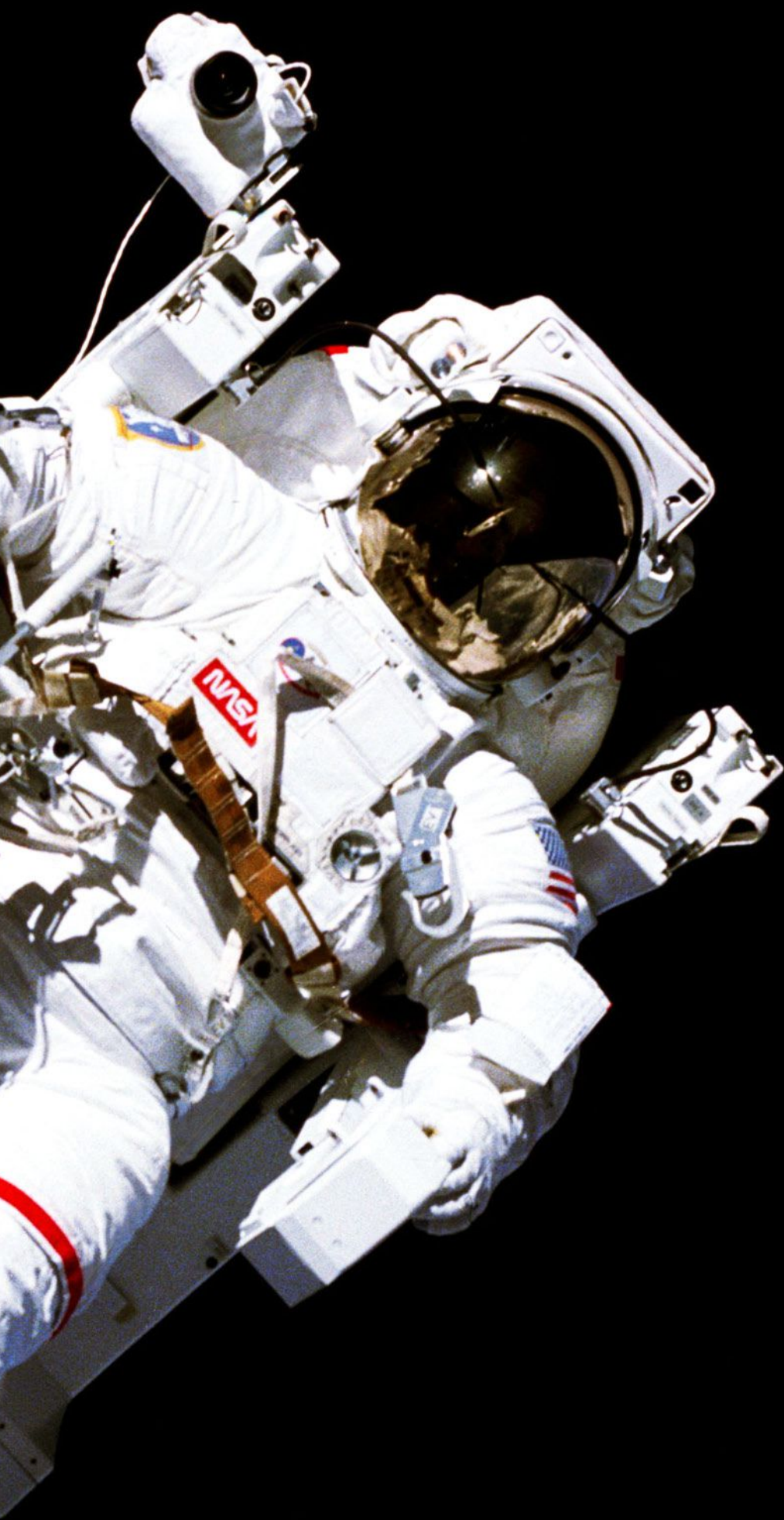
Like the eight-member Class of 2013, the future astronauts will train to fly to the International Space Station on capsules under development by SpaceX and Boeing, as well as on NASA's Orion spacecraft intended for deep-space exploration. NASA aims to send astronauts to Mars in the 2030s.

The two-month application period closed last week. The first astronaut class was the Mercury 7 chosen in 1959.

Online:

NASA: <http://astronauts.nasa.gov/>





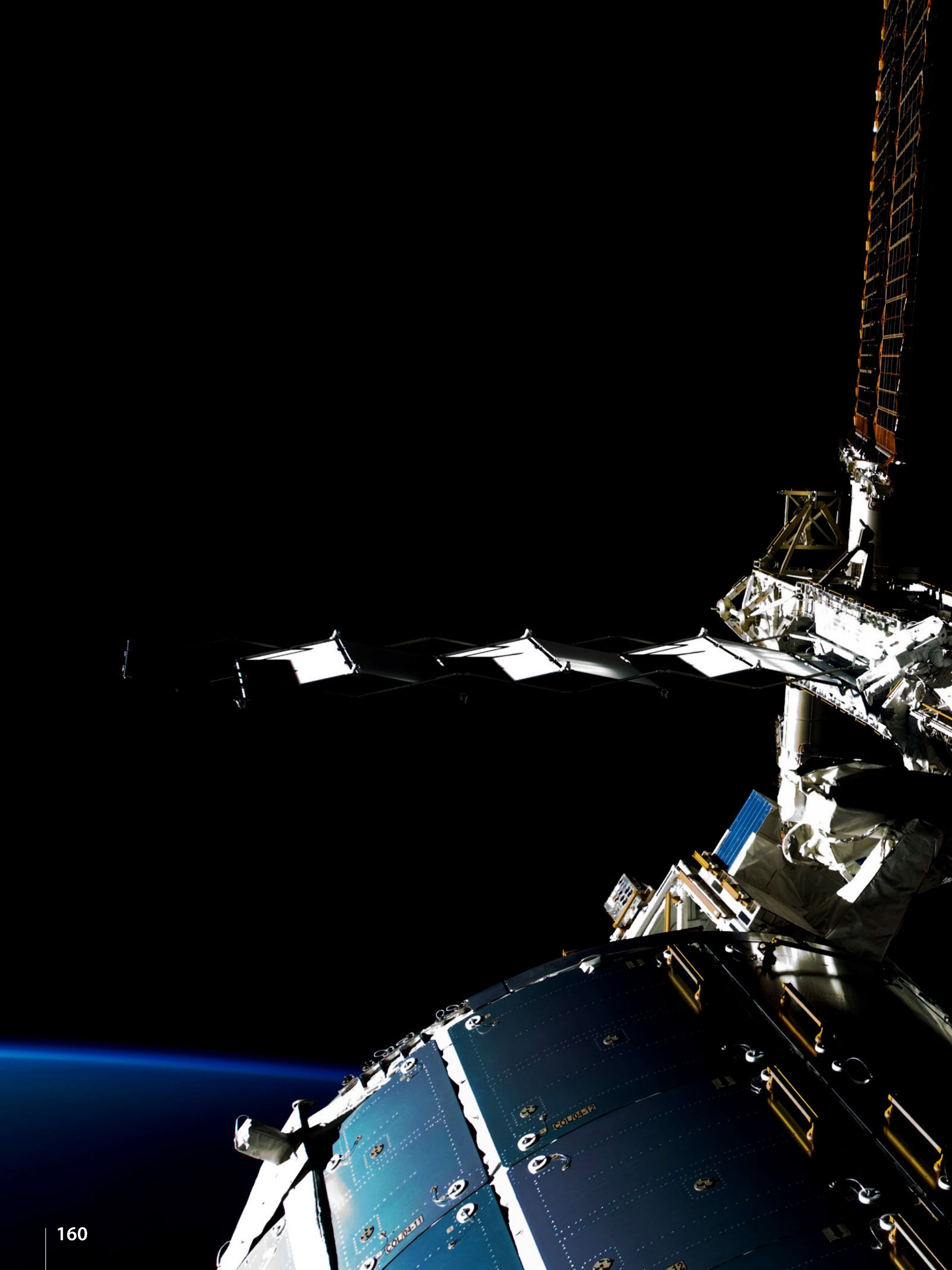
SPACE STATION ASTRONAUTS GIVE HUGE TRASH CAN THE BOOT

The International Space Station just got a whole lot tidier.

A pair of NASA astronauts released a capsule loaded with 1.5 tons of trash as the space station soared over Bolivia. The capsule should re-enter the atmosphere and burn up harmlessly over the Pacific on Saturday.

NASA supplier Orbital ATK launched the capsule to the space station in December, full of food, clothes and other goods. The astronauts removed the precious contents, then filled it with garbage and old equipment for incineration.

Commander Scott Kelly and Timothy Kopra, the Americans on board, sent computer commands to set the Cygnus free. The stunning 250-mile-high view showed the capsule slowly backing away, its two circular solar wings looking like open umbrellas.



Kelly, who's less than two weeks from wrapping up an unprecedented yearlong mission for NASA, thanked everyone who worked on the Cygnus - "this great vehicle."

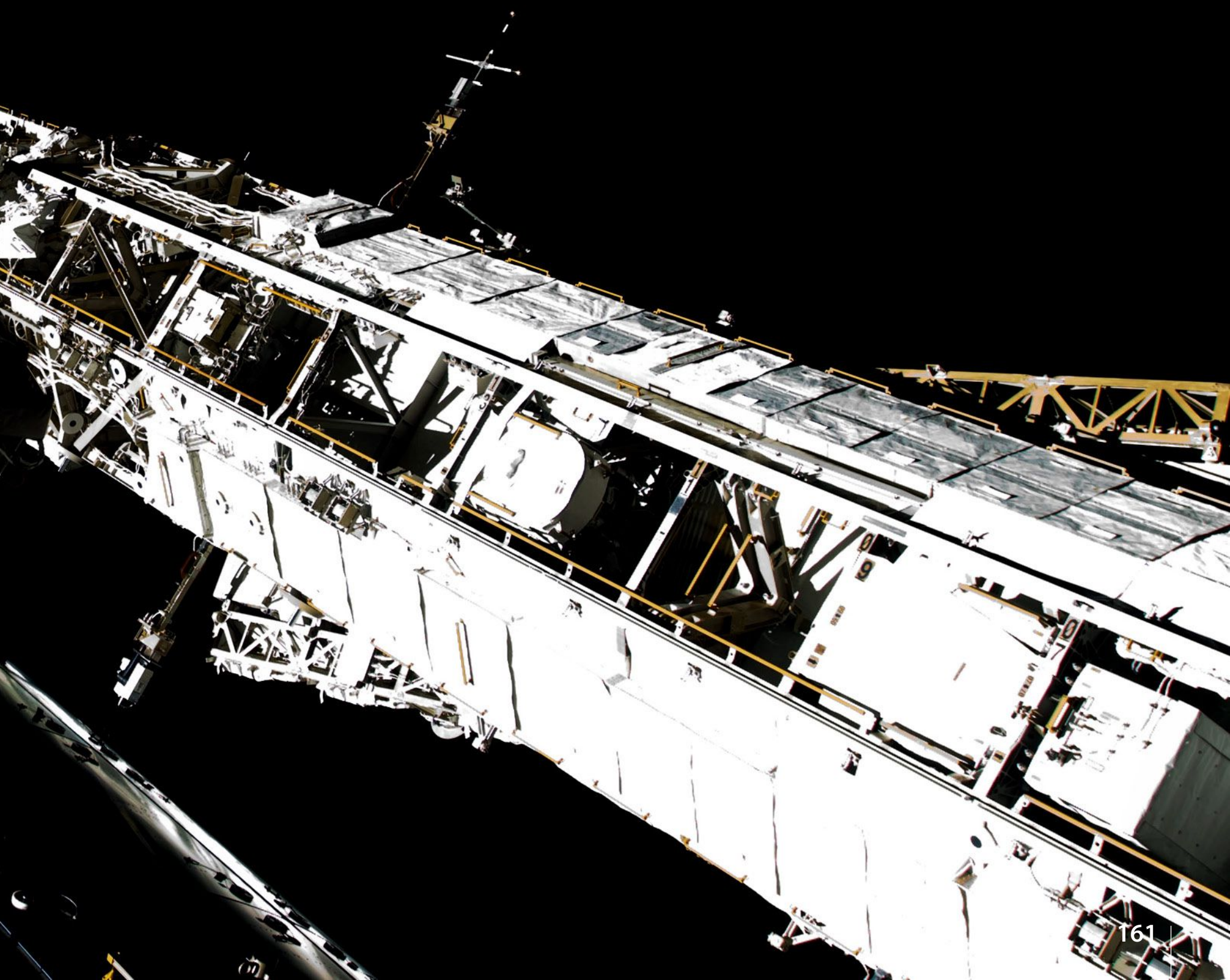
"It's been a pleasure," he noted.

"A beautiful release," replied Mission Control.

Virginia-based Orbital ATK plans to launch another Cygnus with more supplies from Cape Canaveral, Florida, late next month. The flight was delayed a few weeks after black mold contaminated some of the cargo bags. Technicians had to disinfect everything.

SpaceX, meanwhile, another commercial cargo carrier for NASA, is aiming to make a delivery in the next few months. The company is working to get back on track following a launch accident last summer.

NASA has handed off space station shipments to private business so it can focus on getting astronauts beyond low-Earth orbit, namely to Mars. It hopes to do the same with space station crews next year. For now, U.S. astronauts are hitching rides with the Russians.







REPORT:
HAWAII LEADS
NATION IN
GETTING TOO
LITTLE SLEEP





Tired of hearing that more than a third of U.S. adults don't get enough sleep? Here's something new: a government report about which states get the most sack time.

It says South Dakota has the largest proportion of residents who get at least seven hours of sleep each night.

Hawaii - often thought of as a peaceful vacation spot - has the lowest proportion.

Here's the lowdown:

THE PROBLEM

For adults, the recommended amount of sleep is seven to nine hours each night. Past studies have found that more than one-third of U.S. adults get less. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday released a new round of national survey data that found the same thing.

Some of those people - nearly 10 percent of Americans, by some estimates - suffer chronic insomnia and may seek a physician's help. Inadequate sleep has been tied to the start and worsening of a range of diseases and conditions, including diabetes, heart disease, obesity and depression.

THE STATES

The latest CDC report, based on surveys of more than 444,000 adults in 2014, for the first time offers a look at findings in all 50 states. The Great Plains states led the nation in healthy sleep, buoyed by South Dakota, where 72 percent of those surveyed said they averaged at least 7 hours nightly.





The South and Appalachian states got the least sleep as a region. But Hawaii was the worst individual state, where 56 percent of respondents got the recommended amount of sleep. The report also found that while two-thirds of white people nationally got enough sleep, only about half of blacks, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders did.

THE RECOMMENDATION

The report didn't dig into why certain states or racial groups got less sleep than others. Experts believe several factors could be involved. For example, people with steady jobs and normal work hours tend to get more sleep than others. Smoking and health problems also can rob people of sleep, said the CDC's Anne Wheaton, one of the report's authors.

Doctors offer tips for good sleeping that include sticking to a regular bedtime schedule, getting exercise each day and avoiding caffeine and nicotine at night.

Online:

CDC report: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>





UN PANEL AGREES TO BAN BATTERY SHIPMENTS ON AIRLINERS

A U.N. panel on Monday approved a temporary ban on cargo shipments of rechargeable lithium batteries on passenger planes because they can create intense fires capable of destroying an aircraft.

The decision by the Montreal-based International Civil Aviation Organization's top-level governing council isn't binding, but most countries follow the agency's standards. The ban is effective on April 1.

"This interim prohibition will continue to be in force as separate work continues through ICAO on a new lithium battery packaging performance standard, currently expected by 2018," said Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, the ICAO council's president.



Namrata Kolachalam, a U.S. Transportation Department spokeswoman, called the ban “a necessary action to protect passengers, crews, and aircraft from the current risk to aviation safety.”

Lithium-ion batteries are used in a vast array of products from cellphones and laptops to some electric cars. About 5.4 billion lithium-ion cells were manufactured worldwide in 2014. A battery is made up of two or more cells. A majority of batteries are transported on cargo ships, but about 30 percent are shipped by air.

Airlines flying to and from the U.S. that accept lithium battery shipments carry 26 million passengers a year, the Federal Aviation Administration estimates. The ban doesn’t apply to batteries packaged inside equipment like a laptop with a battery inside, for example.

PRBA - The Rechargeable Battery Association, which opposed the ban, said in a statement that the industry is preparing to comply with the ban, but there may be “significant disruption in the logistics supply chain,” especially for batteries used in medical devices.

Aviation authorities have long known that the batteries can self-ignite, creating fires that are hotter than 1,100 degrees. That’s near the melting point of aluminum, which is used in aircraft construction.

Safety concerns increased after FAA tests showed gases emitted by overheated batteries can build up in cargo containers, leading to explosions capable of disabling aircraft fire suppression systems and allowing fires to rage unchecked. As a result of the tests, an organization representing aircraft manufacturers

- including the world's two largest, Boeing and Airbus - said last year that airliners aren't designed to withstand lithium battery fires and that continuing to accept battery shipments is "an unacceptable risk."

More than other types of batteries, lithium-ion batteries are susceptible to short-circuit if they are damaged, exposed to extreme temperatures, overcharged, packed too close together or contain manufacturing defects. When they short-circuit, the batteries can experience uncontrolled temperature increases known as "thermal runaway." That, in turn, can spread short-circuiting to nearby batteries until an entire shipment is overheating and emitting explosive gases.

It's not unusual for tens of thousands of batteries to be shipped in a single cargo container.

Since 2006, three cargo jets have been destroyed and four pilots killed by in-flight fires that accident investigators say were either started by batteries or made more severe by their proximity. The International Federation of Air Line Pilots Associations lobbied the ICAO council unsuccessfully to extend the ban to cargo carriers.

"This has been a long time coming, and is justified by the risk these batteries pose in transportation," said Mark Rogers of the Air Line Pilots Association in North America. "We now call on ICAO to recognize that the same risk is present on cargo aircraft and to extend the prohibition to all aircraft, until safe methods of transport can be implemented."







Besides the ban on shipments on passenger planes, the ICAO also approved a requirement that batteries shipped on cargo planes be no more than 30 percent charged, and imposed new limits on small packages of batteries.

Dozens of airlines have already voluntarily stopped accepting battery shipments, but others oppose a ban. KLM, the royal Dutch airline, made a presentation to a lower-level ICAO panel arguing against a ban, according to an aviation official familiar with the presentation. KLM and Air France are owned by a Franco-Dutch holding company. Representatives from the Netherlands and France on the dangerous goods panel voted last fall against a ban.

The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly and spoke on the condition that he not be named.

KLM officials didn't respond to requests for comment.

ICAO's decision frees the Transportation Department to begin work on regulations to impose a ban. A law passed by Congress in 2012 at the behest of industry prohibits the department from issuing any regulations regarding air shipments of lithium batteries that are more stringent than ICAO standards unless there is a crash that can be shown to have been started by batteries. Since most evidence in crashes is destroyed by fire, that's virtually impossible to do, critics of the provision say.

Rep. John Mica, R-Fla., who authored the provision, has said that since batteries are an international industry there should be a single, international standard because it would be too confusing for shippers to follow multiple rules.





CHINA REQUIRES APPROVAL FOR FOREIGN FIRMS TO PUBLISH ONLINE

A new Chinese regulation announced this week will require foreign companies and foreign-Chinese joint ventures to acquire approval before publishing content online, in the government's latest move to tighten control of the digital realm.

In an apparent countervailing trend born of the need to shore up slowing growth and flagging foreign investment, the government on Friday also announced plans to make it easier for foreigners to live and work in the country under new rules for obtaining permanent residency.

Under the new regulations going into effect March 10, firms with at least part-foreign ownership will be banned from publishing on the mainland text, pictures, maps, games, animation and sound “of informational or thoughtful nature” without approval from the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television.

Chinese law has long required Internet service providers to hold an operating license that can only be obtained in partnership with a Chinese firm, and the new regulations do not represent a wholesale revision of existing rules or practices, experts say.

But the new policies underscore the increasingly restrictive political climate in China, where the leadership has sought to rein in public speech and thought, with an emphatic focus on the country’s fast-growing Internet industry.

The explosive rise of new media, ranging from social media messaging services to streaming TV shows, for instance, has prompted Chinese censors to introduce a slate of new regulations so it could police digital and social media as closely as it did traditional publications. The country’s top Internet regulator has repeatedly warned that an untamed cyberspace would pose a risk to domestic security and the government should decide who to allow into “its house.”

“China is still focused more on maintaining the social stability and national security interests when it comes to making policies on the Internet industry, while caring less about the commercial and individual interests,” said Zhang Zhian, the director of the school of communication and design at Sun Yat-sen University.





Image: Andy Wong

As part of the new regulations, online publishers must store their content on servers in the mainland, a stipulation that gives the government expanded legal powers regarding data access and control. Beijing has made similar data storage requirements for technology firms as part of new cybersecurity and national security laws passed in the past year.

Paul Gillis, a visiting professor at Peking University's Guanghua School of Management who studies Chinese-foreign joint ventures, said China has introduced regulations in recent months that explicitly give authorities censorship powers under the law that they have long had in practice.

"From a practical standpoint it's not much different," he said. "There was tough regulation of anything online before and they shut down anything they thought disrupts social order. But a lot of what might have been common practices before are being put into legislation so China can argue it's operating under the rule of law."

Meanwhile, the new guidelines issued by China's Cabinet aim to expand the categories of foreigners in China eligible to obtain the Chinese equivalent of a U.S. green card. Procedures will be simplified and restrictions relaxed on foreign students seeking jobs in the country.

China's economy posted its slowest growth in a quarter century last year, expanding 6.9 percent. Officials expect growth this year of between 6.5 and 7 percent, while once-robust interest among foreign investors is falling amid complaints over excessive government interference.









TOP 10 SONGS

MY HOUSE

FLO RIDA

LOVE YOURSELF

JUSTIN BIEBER

STRESSED OUT

TWENTY ONE PILOTS

LET IT GO

JAMES BAY

ALL I ASK

ADELE

HELLO

ADELE

7 YEARS

LUKAS GRAHAM

MAKE ME LIKE YOU

GWEN STEFANI

WHEN WE WERE YOUNG

ADELE

ONE CALL AWAY

CHARLIE PUTH





TOP 10 ALBUMS

25
ADELE

TRAVELLER
CHRIS STAPLETON

1989
TAYLOR SWIFT

21 CLASSIC ROCK FAVORITES
VARIOUS ARTISTS

SIDE PONY
LAKE STREET DIVE

PAINTING WITH
ANIMAL COLLECTIVE

PURPOSE (DELUXE)
JUSTIN BIEBER

SOUND & COLOR
ALABAMA SHAKES

TAKING ONE FOR THE TEAM
SIMPLE PLAN

DIG DEEP
AFTER THE BURIAL





TOP 10

MUSIC VIDEOS

UPTOWN FUNK (FEAT. BRUNO MARS)

MARK RONSON

HELLO

ADELE

GIRL CRUSH (DELUXE VERSION)

LITTLE BIG TOWN

WATCH ME (WHIP / NAE NAE)

SILENTÓ

CAKE BY THE OCEAN

DNCE

OUT OF THE WOODS

TAYLOR SWIFT

**WHEN WE WERE YOUNG
(LIVE AT THE CHURCH STUDIOS)**

ADELE

HANDS TO MYSELF

SELENA GOMEZ

SORRY

JUSTIN BIEBER

STRESSED OUT

TWENTY ONE PILOTS





TOP 10 TV SHOWS

SELF DEFENSE

SUITS, SEASON 5

NO WAY OUT

THE WALKING DEAD, SEASON 6

THE DREAM TEAM

THE PEOPLE V. O.J. SIMPSON: AMERICAN CRIME STORY

SWITCH

BETTER CALL SAUL, SEASON 2

TWO CHAINZ

BROAD CITY, SEASON 3

HEARING PROBLEMS

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF BEVERLY HILLS, SEASON 6

THUNK IN THE TRUNK

MODERN FAMILY, SEASON 7

CODE OF SILENCE

ARROW, SEASON 4

ESCAPE FROM EARTH-2

THE FLASH, SEASON 2

ALL I WANT IS YOU

GREY'S ANATOMY, SEASON 12





TOP 10 BOOKS

THE NEXT ALWAYS

NORA ROBERTS

ROOMHATE

PENELOPE WARD

JANUARY

AUDREY CARLAN

GETTING DIRTY - COMPLETE SERIES

LUCIA JORDAN

FEBRUARY

AUDREY CARLAN

MARCH

AUDREY CARLAN

THE WIDOW

FIONA BARTON

COMETH THE HOUR

JEFFREY ARCHER

ME BEFORE YOU

JOJO MOYES

APRIL

AUDREY CARLAN

FORD CEO LOOKS TO AUTONOMOUS CARS, SHARING ECONOMY

Ford CEO Mark Fields says the 112-year-old company is tripling its investment in new technologies that will ultimately lead to self-driving vehicles - but will keep making cars for drivers who want to keep their hands on the wheel.

Fields said it was no coincidence that Ford chose the Mobile World Congress, a massive technology trade show in Barcelona, to unveil its new Kuga SUV, which features its latest connectivity and driver-assisted technology.

"We are really emphasizing our transition from an auto company to an auto and mobility company," Fields told The Associated Press in an interview Monday at Ford's stand, which stood out in a sea of smartphone and gadget makers.

"This is a really good audience to reach some new folks."





The Kuga includes the latest version of Ford's connectivity technology, SYNC 3, which the company says includes improved voice commands and makes it easier to access applications on a driver's smartphone. It has a new 1.5-liter diesel engine, among other features.

Fields said that over the next five years investment will increase threefold in autonomous driving technologies, such as one-button parking assistance and guidance to keep a car in its lane and help braking in heavy traffic, with the ultimate goal of a fully autonomous car. He declined to provide financial figures.

Don Butler, Ford's executive director of connected vehicle and services, told the AP "we like to think about it as the transition from just a hardware company to a software and mobility services company as well."

"Mobility" is a buzzword at the wireless show. For Ford customers, it means a wide range of innovations from further integration of the Internet in cars, to ride-sharing and even the use of other modes of transport in conjunction with cars, like bicycles.





Fields said Ford is aware it will have to be careful to keep a hold on the traditional car driver, by protecting - especially in the United States - the aura of personal freedom that automakers have always cast over their products.

Ford is taking a “dual path” in developing the connected car, said Fields. One for those who want to be assisted by the car or eventually have the vehicle take over, and another for drivers who want to keep control of the wheel.

With ride-sharing platforms like Uber reshaping driving for many young would-be consumers, Ford is also looking to get a piece of the so-called sharing economy.

“Across the world when you see growth of these megacities, with 10 million or more folks, people want mobility solutions, they want options,” Fields said. That can include car-sharing, ride-sharing or the use of multiple modes of transportation linked into one service - such as the use of a train and bike.

He said Ford is testing some programs in this field, which he sees as “a big revenue opportunity.”

Those projects include car-sharing in London and across Germany. Ford is also working on an experimental e-bikes program that Butler said it could one day mesh with car-sharing.



中国移动

Apple Pay

09:54

69%

ICBC 中国工商银行

.... 2848



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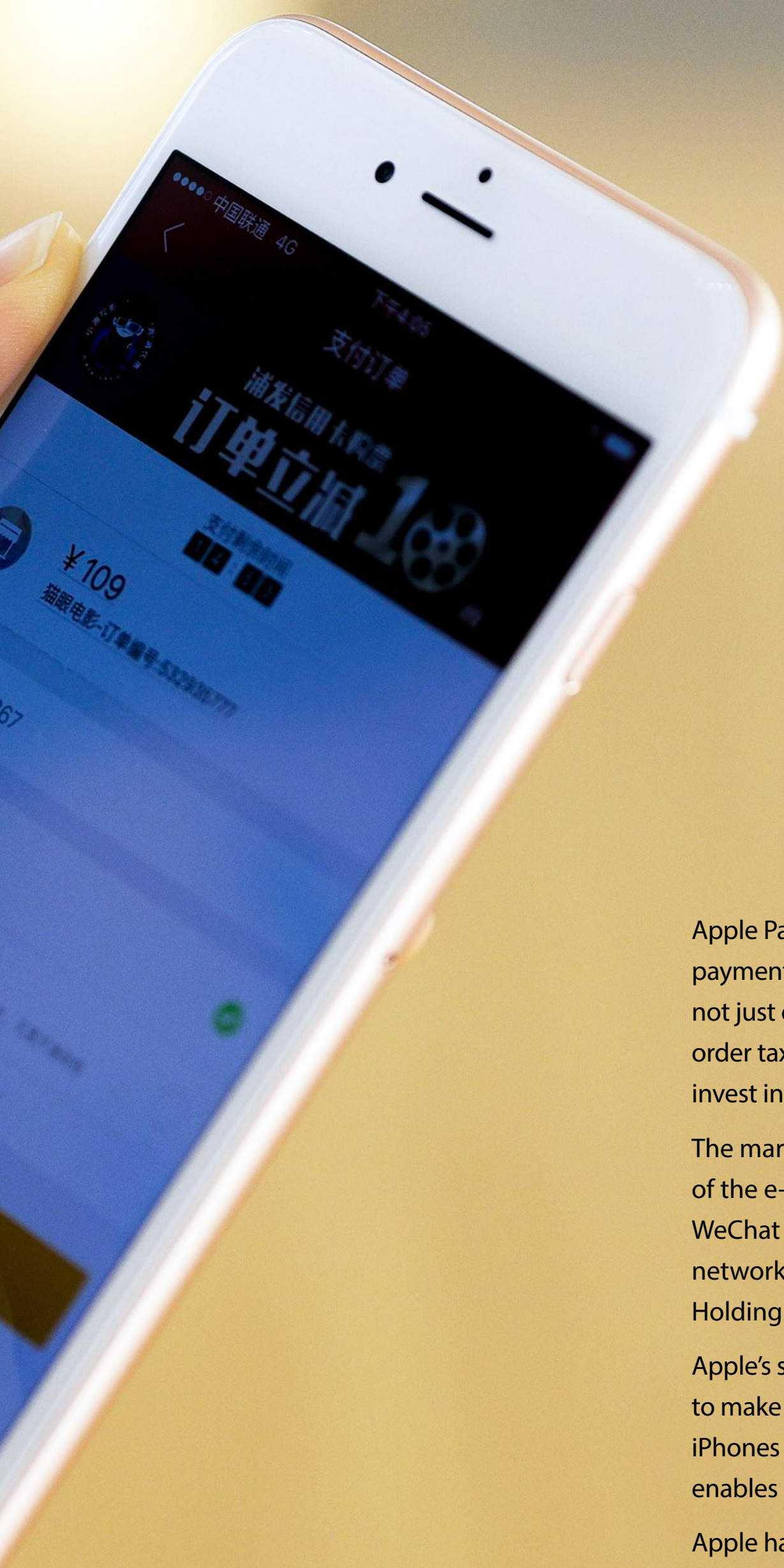
APPLE PAY LAUNCHES IN CHINA WHERE E-PAYMENTS WIDELY USED

Apple Inc. on Thursday (18) launched its smartphone-based payment system in China, where the electronic payments market is already dominated by an arm of e-commerce giant Alibaba.

Apple said Apple Pay could be used with cards from 19 banks and “numerous merchants.” The merchants include supermarket Carrefour, fast food outlets McDonald’s and KFC, and convenience store 7-Eleven, according to a news release Wednesday from China UnionPay, the country’s state-owned credit card processor with which Apple is working.

Apple’s electronic payment system started in the United States in October 2014 and has since spread to Britain, Canada and Australia. Hong Kong, Singapore and Spain are coming this year.





Apple Pay is a late arrival in a Chinese electronic payments market that offers smartphone users not just online shopping but also the option to order taxis, send money to friends, pay bills and invest in wealth management funds.

The market is dominated by Alipay, an arm of the e-commerce giant Alibaba Group. WeChat Payment, operated by social networking and gaming company Tencent Holdings Ltd, is also popular.

Apple's system will allow UnionPay cardholders to make payments at retail stores via Apple iPhones and Apple Watches. The service also enables in-app payments on iPhones and iPads.

Apple has declined to say how the company and UnionPay would divide the costs and revenues of their venture.

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